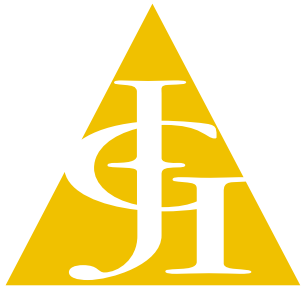


CJI Planning Survey

1999

Highlights And Findings





I N D I A N A
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
I N S T I T U T E

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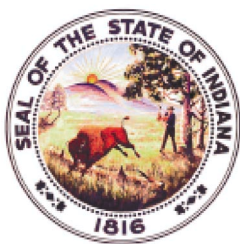
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CJI Planning Survey 1999 Highlights and Findings



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About the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

Guided by a Board of Trustees representing all components of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute serves as the state's public safety planning agency. The Institute develops long-range strategies for the effective administration of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems and administers federal and state funds to carry out these strategies.

The Institute oversees a variety of justice programs including the Governor's Criminal Law Study Commission, Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana, Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving, Victim Services, Juvenile Justice Program, Safe Haven, Drug and Crime Control Program, Criminal History Records Improvement, Law Enforcement Assistance Fund, and Police Corp.

To carry out the Institute's planning and administration mandates, the Institute's Board of Trustees identifies statewide needs and resources for fighting crime and delinquency and helping victims of crime. Information gathered from various sources is used to develop statewide criminal and juvenile justice policies and strategic plans. Sources of planning information include the following:

- Evaluations of program effectiveness;
- Research data;
- Needs assessments;
- Local units of government;
- Other state government agencies;
- Professionals involved in justice-related efforts; and
- Concerned citizens.

Indiana's 1999 Strategic Planning Survey (the Survey) serves as an important source of information for criminal and juvenile justice planning in the early years of the new millennium. The Survey captures and quantifies the experience and knowledge of more than 1,500 professionals working in criminal and juvenile justice across the state. This publication presents Survey findings and describes what we learned from this research initiative conducted in the summer of 1999.



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Survey Purpose, Methods, Highlights

Purpose

Indiana's 1999 Strategic Planning Survey (the Survey) was conducted to aid in developing and implementing statewide strategies for combating drug and violent crime and preventing juvenile delinquency. As indicated in the following excerpt from the Survey cover letter, the purpose of the Survey was to obtain information on local criminal and juvenile justice problems, needs, and resources from the perspective of professionals working in all major components of Indiana's justice system:

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute . . . is conducting a survey of state criminal/juvenile justice practitioners to better understand the current needs, problems, and concerns of Indiana communities. . . . Based on your experience as the head of a key part of the criminal/juvenile justice system in your community, we have selected you to represent the perspective of that component of the justice system. Your responses to the questionnaire are needed to ensure the validity of this survey.

Methods

Respondents. For this investigation the Institute sampled twelve groups of professionals working in criminal and juvenile justice positions. As shown in the table on the following page, the sample included professionals in all areas of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems, including town marshals, police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, public defenders, trial court judges, chief probation officers, community correction program directors, detention center directors, jail commanders, Local Coordinating Council (LCC) Chairs/Co-Chairs, selected Institute grantees, and the Institute's Board of Trustees. (LCCs are volunteer coalitions of citizens and organizations that prepare comprehensive plans addressing substance abuse and safe driving issues in their communities.)

The Institute obtained lists of administrators in each of the twelve groups and entered the names into a mailing list database. Our goal was to obtain the voluntary participation of each administrator in each group. For example, we sampled only chief probation officers not all probation officers.

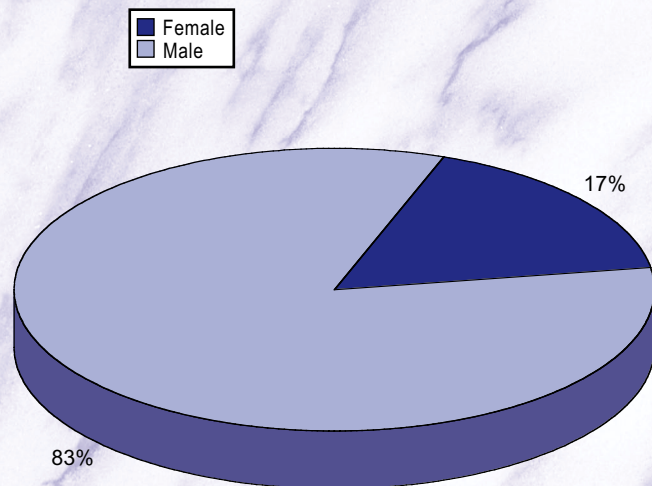
As a check on the accuracy of our sampling, the Survey asked respondents to identify their current professional position. Seventy-three respondents did not fit into one of the groups targeted for this study. The group labeled “Other” accounts for these respondents. Respondents in this group include, for example, former prosecutors, deputy sheriffs, and assistant police chiefs.

Sampled Groups and Response Rates

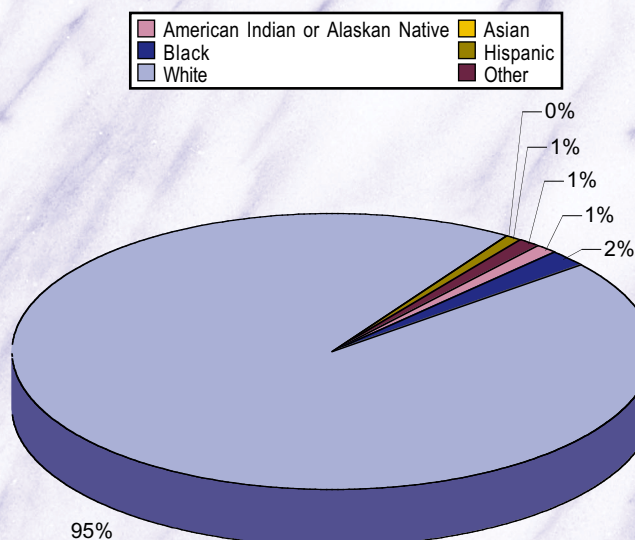
Group	Number Surveyed	Number Returned	Percent Returned
Town Marshals and Police Chiefs	452	332	73%
Sheriffs	91	70	77%
Prosecutors	90	71	79%
Public Defenders	89	44	49%
Trial Court Judges	271	187	69%
Chief Probation Officers	141	113	80%
Community Correction Program Directors	53	36	68%
Detention Center Directors	18	13	72%
Jail Commanders	92	54	59%
Local Coordinating Council Chairs/Co-Chairs	80	36	45%
Selected Institute Grantees	158	96	61%
Institute Board of Trustees	13	10	77%
Other	N/A	73	N/A
Total	1,548	1,135	73%

As the table shows, response rates ranged from a low of 45% for LCCs to a high of 80% for chief probation officers. Overall, 73% or 1,135 of the 1,548 people surveyed completed and returned the questionnaire. This high response rate suggests that, as intended, our sample is representative of professionals in leadership roles throughout Indiana’s criminal and juvenile justice systems. However, we do not assume that the perspectives of all group members (e.g., all police officers) are represented by the responses of selected group leaders (e.g., police chiefs).

Sex of Respondents



Race of Respondents



As the pie charts here show, respondents were predominantly male, white, between the ages of 36 and 55, and highly educated. Four of every 10 respondents had a graduate school degree. As a group, respondents had worked an average of 13 years in their current positions (median = 11 years, range = 1-40 years; not shown). Seventy-eight percent reported that they work with both juveniles and adults. Fifteen percent work only with adults and 7% work only with juveniles (not shown).

Instrument. The Institute developed the Survey using focus meetings, literature reviews, and information provided by other criminal and juvenile justice professionals. The questionnaire consisted of thirty-five questions addressing the following topics:

- a. The age groups of people committing crimes in communities;
- b. Juvenile offenses creating the largest drain on community resources;
- c. Juvenile offenses involving illegally obtained firearms;
- d. Factors contributing to juvenile delinquency;
- e. Representation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system;
- f. Adult offenses creating the largest drain on community resources;
- g. Adult offenses involving illegally obtained firearms;
- h. The availability of programs for dealing with drug problems;
- i. The most commonly abused controlled substances;
- j. The presence of gangs in communities;
- k. The value of various approaches for fighting delinquency and crime;
- l. The availability, effectiveness, and sufficiency of resources for justice programs;
- m. The most effective programs for dealing with crime and delinquency;
- n. Programs respondents would implement to meet the needs of their communities;
- o. The completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of criminal history records;
- p. The availability of justice information systems;
- q. Criminal history information needs; and
- r. Respondent characteristics.

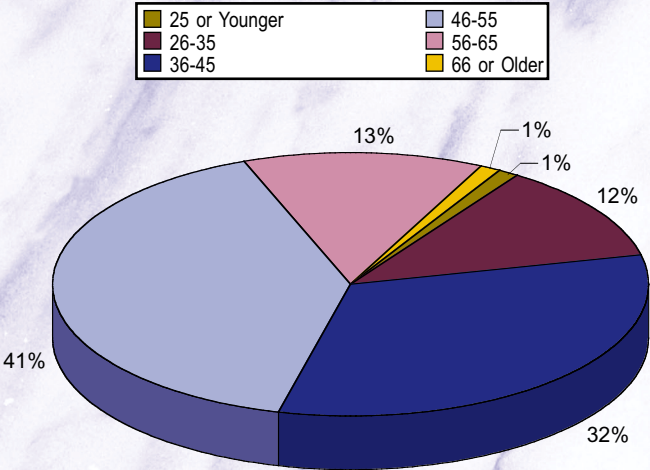
The Survey posed most questions in a fixed-choice format and the remainder in an open-ended format. Later in this document, questions and instructions are reproduced as they appeared in the Survey. The final survey document was professionally printed in an 11 x 17 color format designed for ease of use by respondents.

Procedure. On May 17, 1999, the Institute mailed postcards announcing the coming Survey to all individuals selected for inclusion in the study. To enhance product recognition and responsiveness to the Survey, the 5 x 7 postcards were thematically related to the questionnaire and the envelope in which it was mailed. On May 20, 1999, the Institute mailed the Survey and a cover letter from the Governor’s office with a request that the Survey be completed and returned to the Institute by June 7, 1999 in its enclosed self-addressed, postage pre-paid envelope.

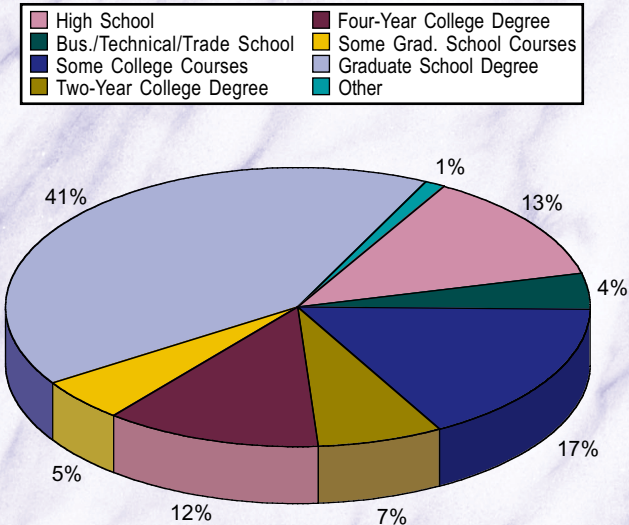
Tracking labels linking individual questionnaires with individual respondents were affixed to the back of each questionnaire to permit follow-up with late or non-respondents. Respondents were instructed not to put their names on the Survey itself so that confidentiality could be maintained. The Institute securely maintained the list linking tracking numbers and individual names and used it only to track whether the Survey had been returned. On June 12, 1999, Institute staff began making follow-up telephone calls to late and non-respondents to encourage them to return the Survey at their earliest possible convenience. On July 15, 1999, the Institute mailed second copies of the Survey, cover letter, and return envelope to remaining non-respondents, covered by a bulletin informing them that the Institute had not received their completed Survey and indicating the percent of people in their targeted group that had responded to date.

Survey data were entered and managed in a Microsoft Access database, and exported to SPSS for statistical analysis. Research Division staff supervised data entry and verification, and analyzed the data.

Age of Respondents



Education Level of Respondents



Highlights

This document presents overall findings for all of the core questions in the Survey. Highlights from the observations, perceptions, and opinions of experienced justice professionals throughout Indiana include the following:

- Although they are not the most frequent or the most serious offenders, youth aged 15-17 present a considerable drain on community resources for dealing with crime and delinquency;
- Very few crimes committed by juveniles and adults involve illegally obtained firearms;
- Four in ten respondents agreed that organized gangs are present in their communities, but there was not strong consensus about how much the presence of gangs or gang activity contributes to juvenile delinquency;
- Most respondents did not believe that minority juveniles are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system relative to their proportion in the population at large (minority representation in Indiana's juvenile justice system is the subject of a coming study);
- The majority of respondents identified cocaine, crack cocaine, and marijuana as the most commonly abused controlled substances in their communities – nearly half reported that amphetamines and methamphetamine also are commonly abused substances;
- Most respondents chose concentrating efforts on education/prevention and issues affecting families/children as the most valuable approaches for fighting delinquency and crime – roughly a third ranked improving the criminal/juvenile justice system, enhancing police investigation and enforcement, providing counseling and treatment for offenders, and providing education and training for offenders among the top five most valuable approaches;

- A third of all respondents would implement programs that focus on prevention and education to meet the needs of their communities;
- Although most of the commonly known justice programs are available in local communities, few respondents thought that these programs are highly effective; and
- When asked to list the most effective program for dealing with crime and delinquency, more respondents listed prevention and education programs or community-based alternative sanctions than any other type of program.

When considering these findings, it is important to note that the purpose of this report is to descriptively present overall Survey results, not to comprehensively explain and interpret each finding. The analyses here do not control for the effects of group membership, such as type of profession, or the influence of intervening variables, such as county population and the demographic and economic makeup of communities, on respondent answers. For example, respondents' professions may influence their views on whether particular justice programs are highly effective. Similarly, responses to questions about minority representation in the juvenile justice system may vary depending on the racial composition of the communities where respondents work. Thus, Survey findings presented in this report do not address factors that may influence different views and experiences among individual groups of justice professionals. Nonetheless, the information presented here provides insight into local justice problems, needs, and resources from the perspective of professionals in all major components of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems.

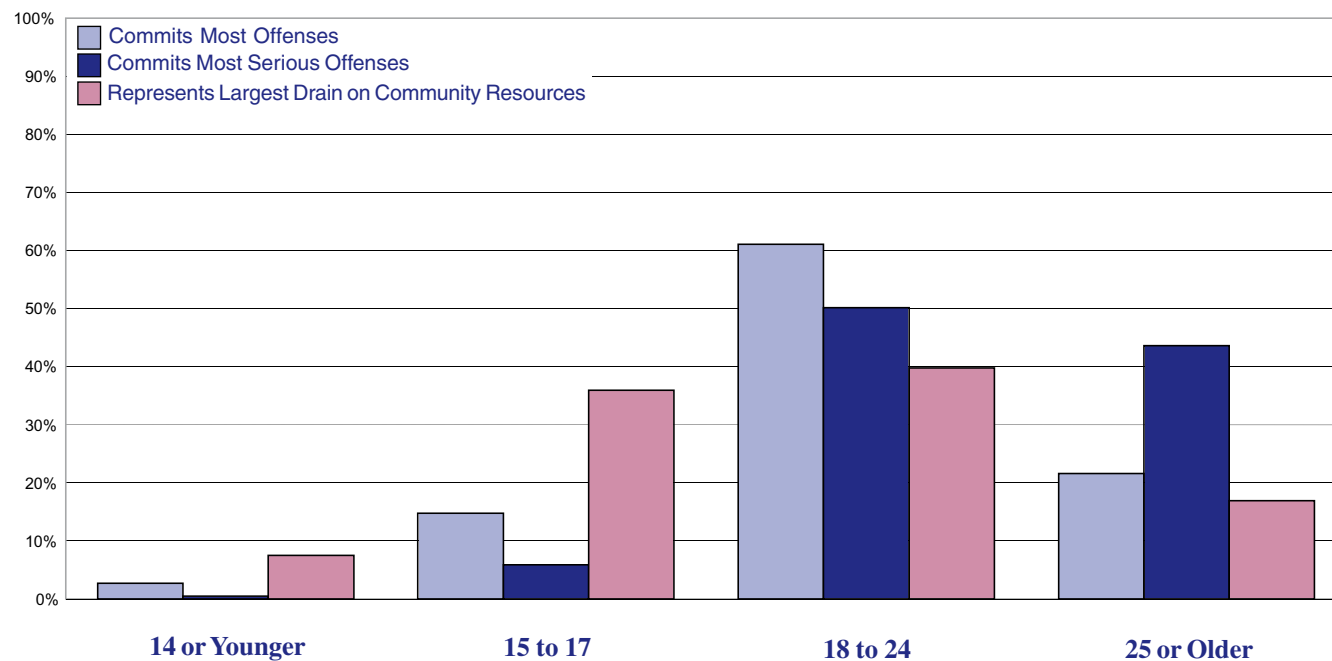
Acknowledgments

We thank all of the individuals whose contributions made this study possible, particularly the justice professionals throughout Indiana who took the time to complete and return the Survey.

The background of the slide is a purple marble pattern with swirling, veined textures in various shades of purple and lavender.

Survey Findings

Age Group that Commits the Most Offenses, Commits the Most Serious Offenses, and Represents the Largest Drain on Community Resources



Survey Questions

Question 8:

In your opinion, which age group commits the most offenses in your community?

Question 9:

In your opinion, which age group commits the most serious offenses in your community?

Question 10:

In your opinion, which age group represents the largest drain on your community's resources for dealing with delinquency/crime? By resources we mean money, people, time, physical space, etc.

1,108 respondents answered question 8; 1,117 answered question 9; and 1,109 answered question 10.

Findings: Youth between the ages of 15 and 17 were not identified as the most frequent or the most serious offenders, but a third of all Survey respondents identified this age group as presenting the largest drain on community resources for dealing with delinquency and crime.

Note: Response options for all three questions were 11 or younger, 12-14, 15-17, 18-24, 25-44, and 45 or older. Extreme ends of the scale are collapsed above because they account for so few responses.

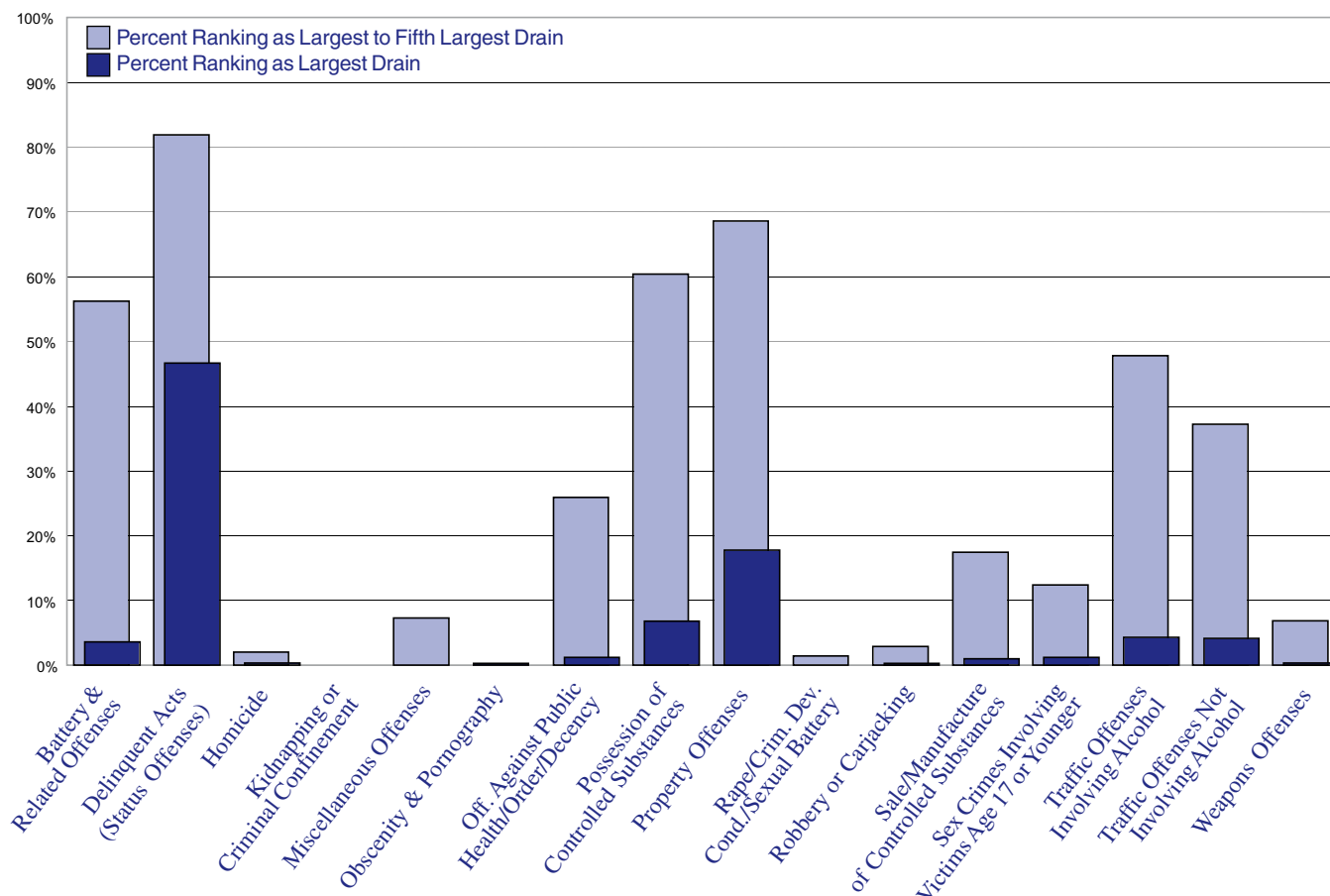
Juvenile Offenses Creating the Largest Drain on Community Resources

Survey Question

Question 11:

On the following list, rank the five offenses committed by youth age 17 or younger in your community that you think create the largest drain on your community's resources. By resources we mean money, people, time, physical space, etc.

Place 1 next to the offense that creates the largest drain, 2 next to the offense that creates the second largest drain, 3 next to the offense that creates the third largest drain, 4 next to the offense that creates the fourth largest drain, and 5 next to the offense that creates the fifth largest drain on community resources.

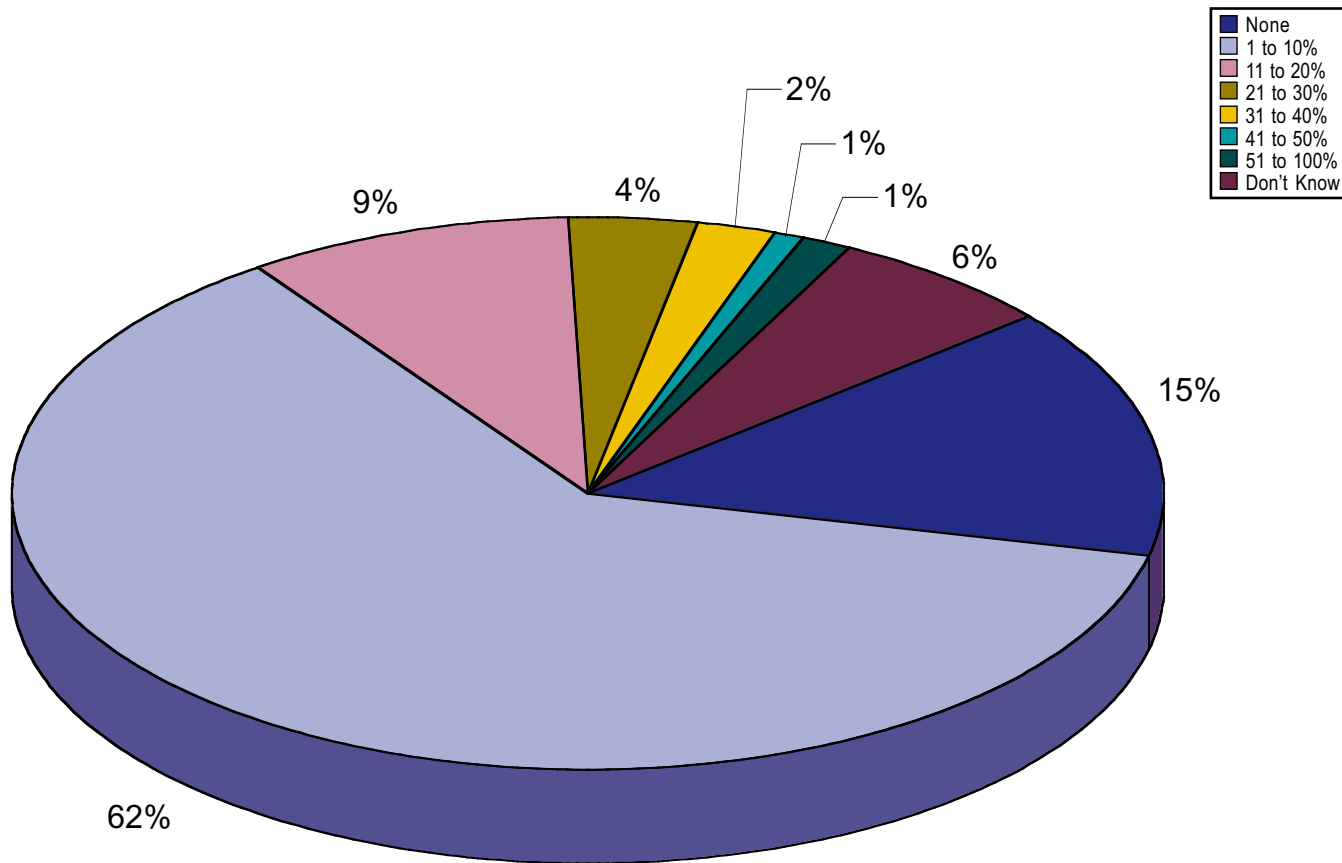


Percent ranking as the largest drain was calculated by dividing the number of respondents ranking an item as the largest drain by 1,135 (the number of respondents returning the survey). Percent ranking as the largest to the fifth largest drain was calculated by summing the number of respondents ranking an item as the largest, second largest, third largest, fourth largest, and fifth largest drain and dividing that sum by 1,135.

Findings: One-half or more of all respondents ranked battery and related offenses, delinquent acts, possession of controlled substances, and property offenses among the top five largest drains on community resources. Forty-seven percent ranked delinquent acts as the *largest drain*.

Note: The sixteen offenses, derived from and defined by the Indiana Juvenile and Criminal Codes, were presented in alphabetical order to avoid biasing responses to this question.

Juvenile Offenses Involving an Illegally Obtained Firearm



Survey Question

Question 12:

In your opinion, what percent of offenses committed by youth age 17 or younger in your community involve an illegally obtained firearm?

1,097 respondents answered this question.

Findings: Seventy-seven percent of respondents indicated that 10% or less of juvenile offenses involve an illegally obtained firearm. (Sixty-two percent answered 1-10% and 15% answered none.)

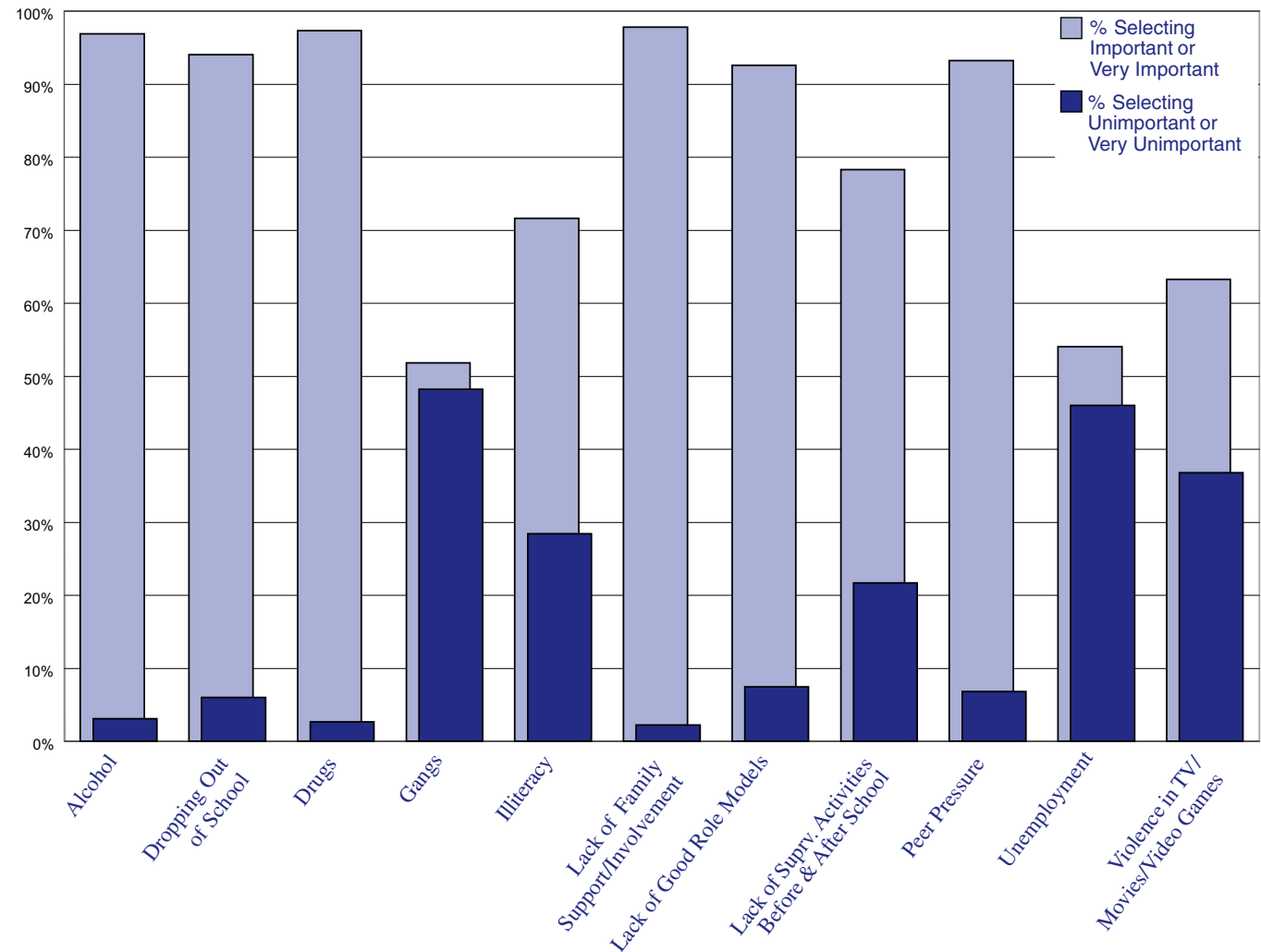
Note: Response options were presented in increments of 10 ranging from 1-10% to 91-100%. Responses at the upper end of the scale are collapsed above because they account for so few responses.

Factors Contributing to Juvenile Delinquency

Survey Question

Question 13:

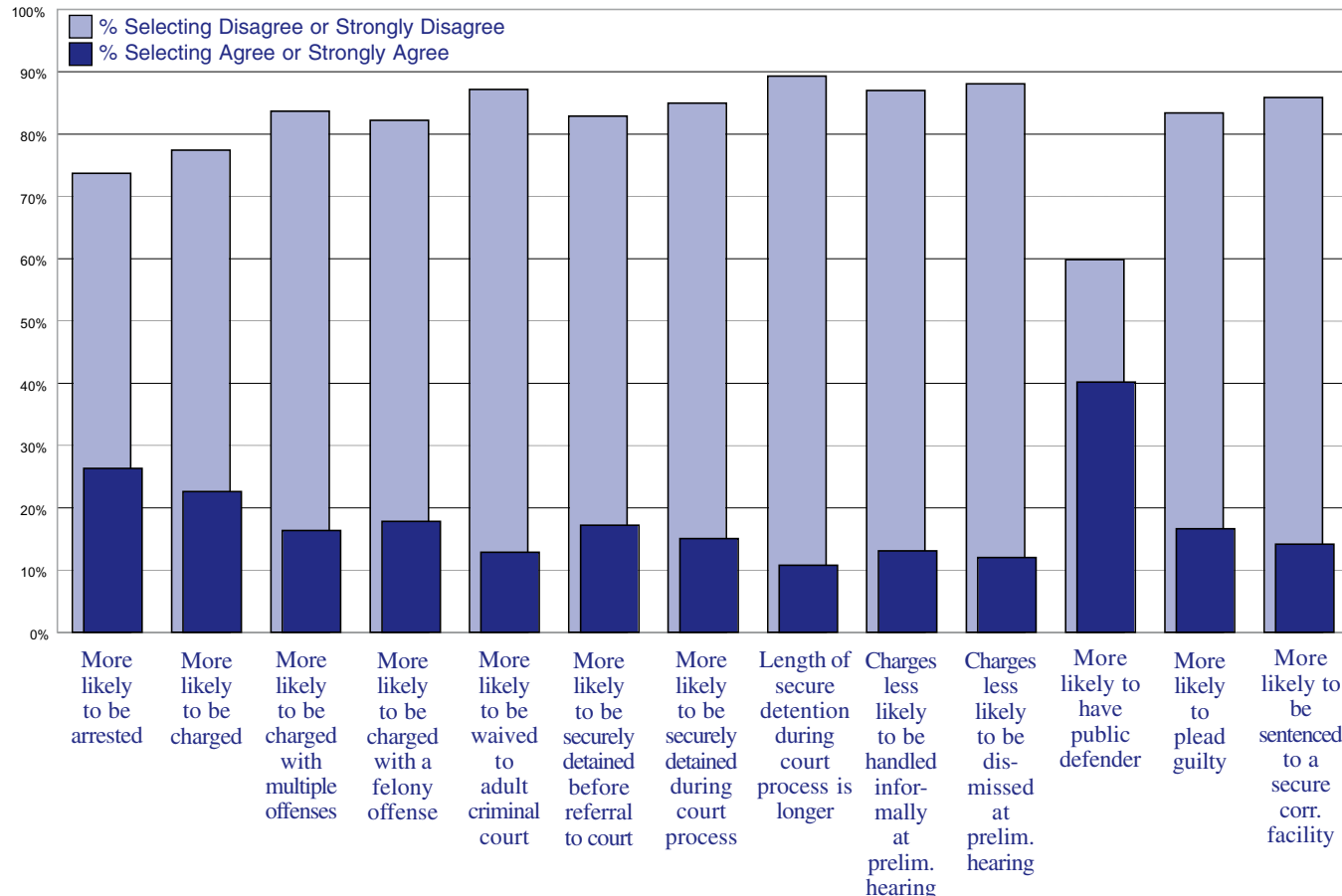
The following factors have been discussed as possible contributors to delinquent acts and offenses committed by youth age 17 or younger. Please circle one number on each line to indicate whether you think each factor is very unimportant, unimportant, important, or very important as a contributor to the juvenile delinquency/crime problem in your community.



The number of respondents answering this question varied for each item, ranging from 1,075 for gangs to 1,094 for alcohol.

Findings: Alcohol, dropping out of school, drugs, lack of family support/involvement, lack of good role models, and peer pressure were chosen as important contributors to juvenile delinquency by more than 90% of respondents. Although half of all respondents thought that gangs and unemployment contribute to juvenile delinquency, roughly half thought that these factors are unimportant.

Minority Representation at Various Stages of the Juvenile Justice System



The number of respondents answering this question varied for each item, ranging from 1,039 for more likely to plead guilty to 1,064 for more likely to be arrested.

Findings: Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with thirteen different statements indicating that minority youth are overrepresented in Indiana's juvenile justice system. For 10 of the 13 statements, more than 80% of respondents disagreed that minority juveniles are overrepresented relative to non-minority youth. Forty percent of respondents believed that minority juveniles are more likely than non-minority juveniles to have a public defender.

Survey Question

Question 14:

In recent years, the United States Congress and the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention have required most states to identify whether minorities are overrepresented at each of the major decision points in the juvenile justice process. Minorities are defined as African-Americans, American Indians, Asians, Pacific Islanders and Hispanics.

The key question is whether minorities are disproportionately represented in a particular juvenile population relative to the percent of minorities among all juveniles in your community. For example, if minority members represent 20% of all juveniles in your community, but represent 50% of all juveniles arrested in your community, they are said to be overrepresented in arrests. Identifying the existence of overrepresentation says nothing about the reasons for overrepresentation.

We would like to know your opinion about overrepresentation in your community with respect to minority youth age 17 or younger. Circle SD if you strongly disagree, D if you disagree, A if you agree, or SA if you strongly agree with the statements below.

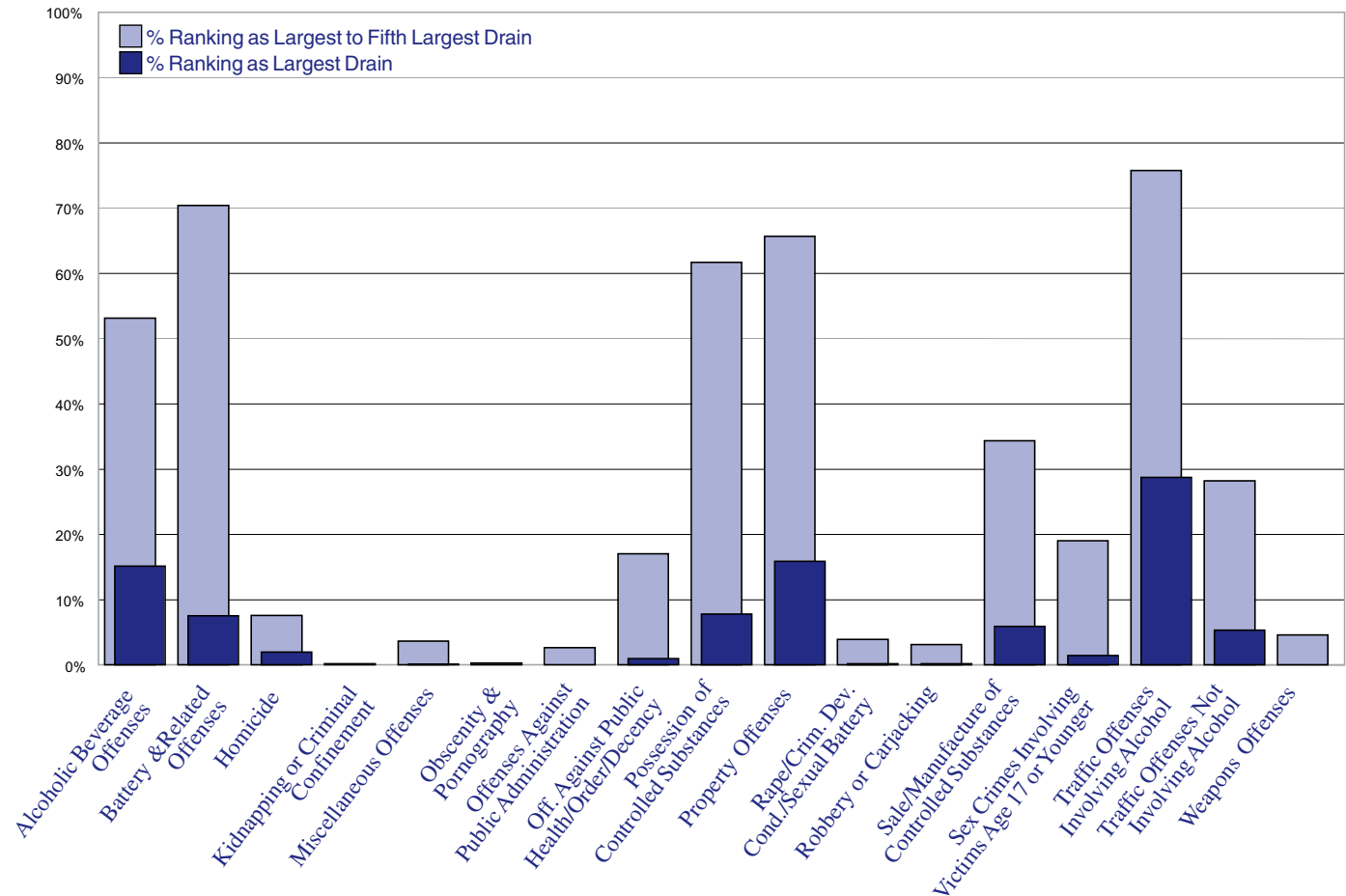
Adult Offenses Creating the Largest Drain on Community Resources

Survey Question

Question 15:

On the following list, rank the five offenses committed by persons age 18 or older in your community that you think create the largest drain on your community's resources. By resources we mean money, people, time, physical space, etc.

Place 1 next to the offense that creates the largest drain, 2 next to the offense that creates the second largest drain, 3 next to the offense that creates the third largest drain, 4 next to the offense that creates the fourth largest drain, and 5 next to the offense that creates the fifth largest drain on community resources.

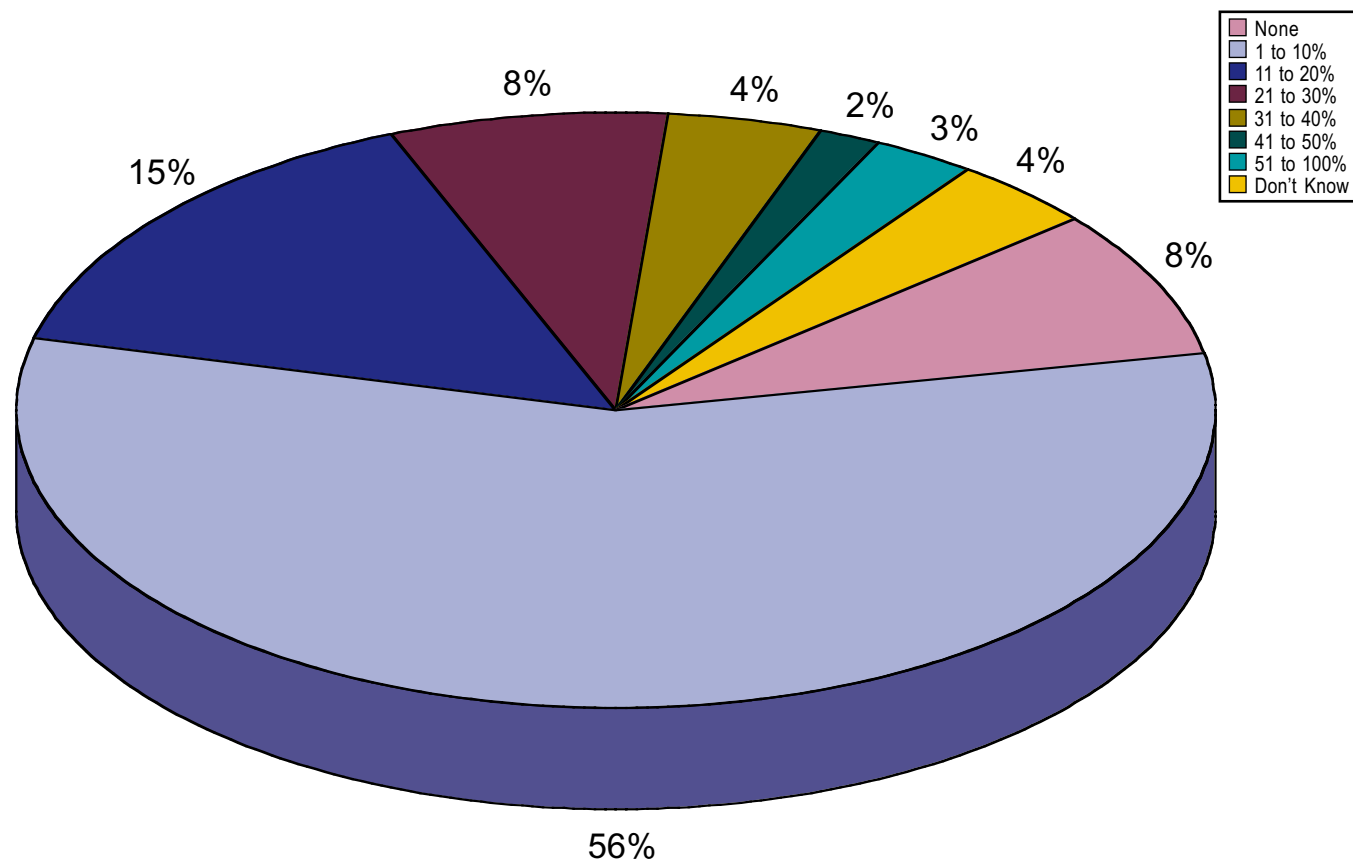


Percent ranking as the largest drain was calculated by dividing the number of respondents ranking an item as the largest drain by 1,135 (the number of respondents returning the survey). Percent ranking as the largest to the fifth largest drain was calculated by summing the number of respondents ranking an item as the largest, second largest, third largest, fourth largest, and fifth largest drain and dividing that sum by 1,135.

Findings: One-half or more of all respondents ranked alcoholic beverage offenses, battery and related offenses, possession of controlled substances, property offenses, and traffic offenses involving alcohol among the top five largest drains on community resources. One in 10 respondents ranked alcoholic beverage offenses, property offenses, and traffic offenses involving alcohol as the *largest drains* on resources.

Note: The seventeen offenses, derived from and defined by the Indiana Juvenile and Criminal Codes, were presented in alphabetical order to avoid biasing responses to this question.

Adult Offenses Involving an Illegally Obtained Firearm



Survey Question

Question 16:

In your opinion, what percent of offenses committed by persons age 18 or older in your community involve an illegally obtained firearm?

1,085 respondents answered this question.

Findings: Sixty-four percent of respondents indicated that 10% or less of adult offenses involve an illegally obtained firearm. (Fifty-six percent answered 1-10% and 8% answered none.)

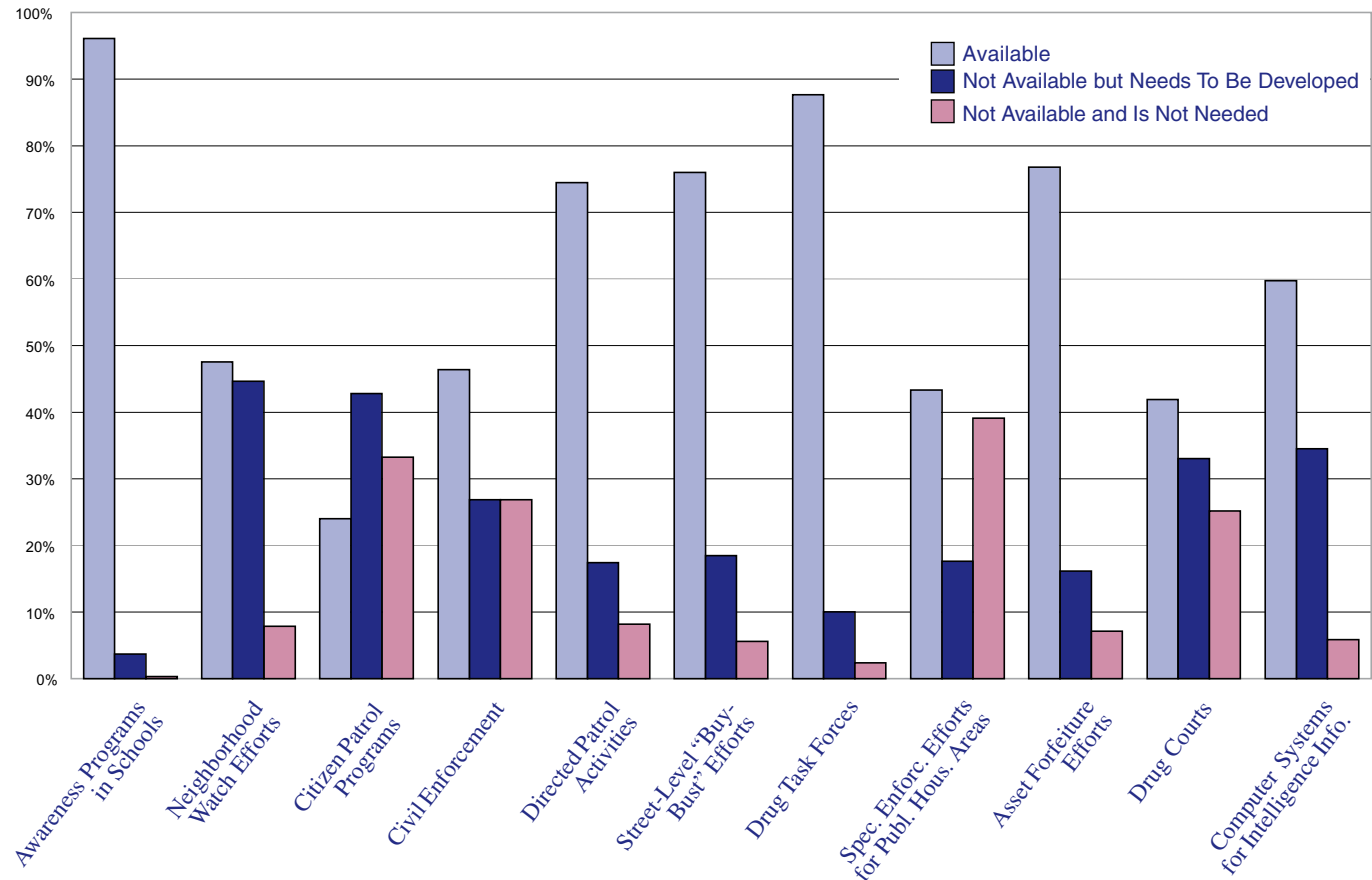
Note: Response options were presented in increments of 10 ranging from 1-10% to 91-100%. Responses at the upper end of the scale are collapsed above because they account for so few responses.

Availability of Programs for Dealing with Drug Problems

Survey Question

Question 17:

Drugs are a continuing problem in most jurisdictions, and criminal justice professionals have responded in a variety of ways. Please indicate whether you think the following approaches to drug problems need to be improved in order to be more effective in your community by circling one number on each line.

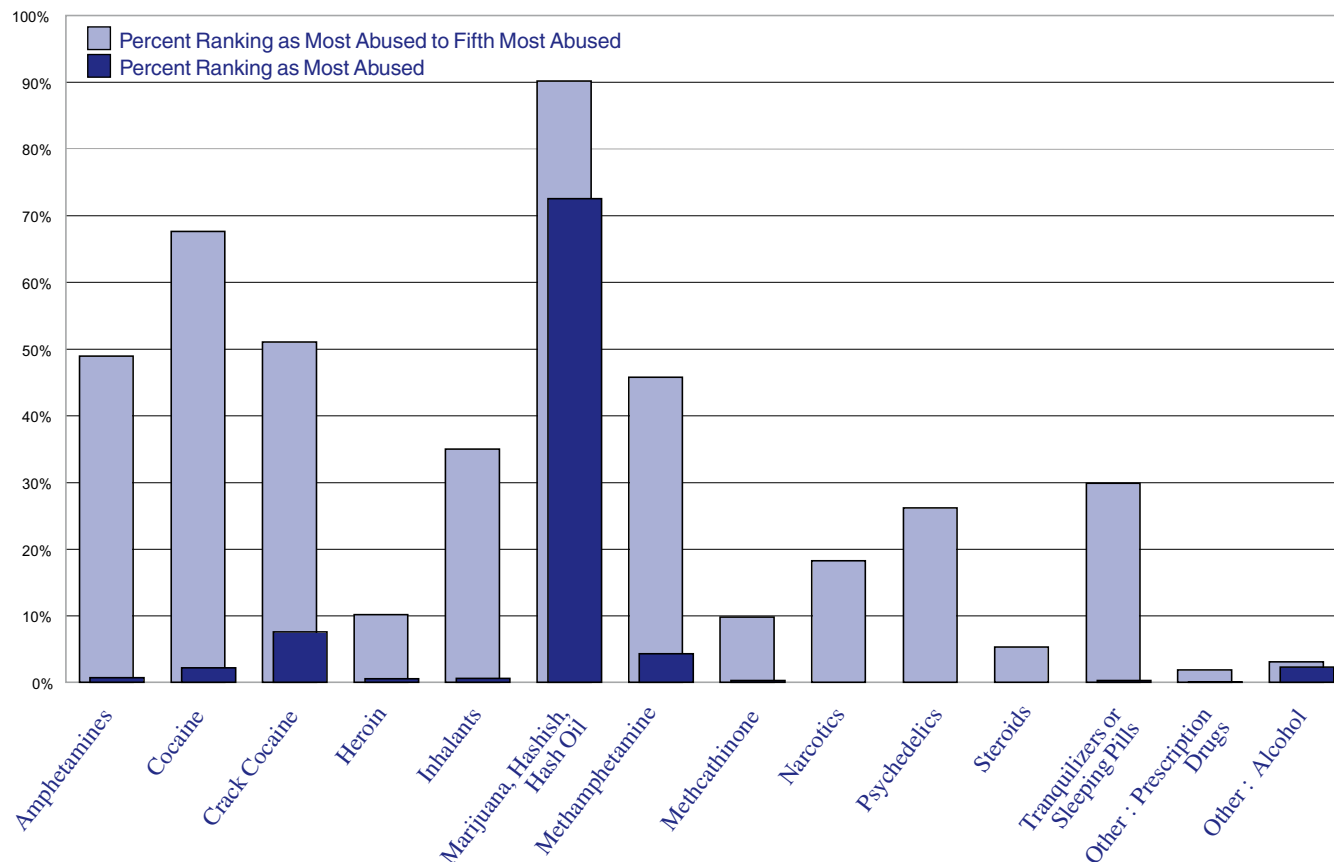


The number of respondents answering this question varied for each item, ranging from 768 for civil enforcement to 1,067 for awareness programs in schools.

Findings: Over 70% of respondents indicated that awareness programs in schools, directed patrols, "buy-bust" efforts, drug task forces, and asset forfeiture efforts are available in their communities. Respondents were the most interested in developing neighborhood watch efforts and computer systems for gathering and using intelligence information (shown by comparing respondents indicating that the approach needs to be developed to those indicating that the approach is not needed).

Note: Six response options were provided: (a) approach is available and needs little or no improvement, (b) approach is available and needs moderate improvement, (c) approach is available and needs major improvement, (d) approach is not available but needs to be developed, (e) approach is not available and is not needed, and (f) don't know. Here, options a, b, and c are collapsed and compared to d and e. Don't know responses were excluded.

Controlled Substances Most Abused in Communities



Survey Question

Question 18:

On the following list, please rank the five controlled substances that you think are most abused in your community by placing 1 next to the most abused, 2 next to the second most abused, 3 next to the third most abused, 4 next to the fourth most abused, and 5 next to the fifth most abused controlled substance.

Percent ranking as the most abused substance was calculated by dividing the number of respondents ranking an item as the most abused substance by 1,135 (the number of respondents returning the survey). Percent ranking as the most to the fifth most abused drug was calculated by summing the number of respondents ranking an item as the most, second most, third most, fourth most, and fifth most abused drug and dividing that sum by 1,135.

Findings: Fifty percent or more of all respondents ranked cocaine, crack cocaine, and marijuana among the top five most abused controlled substances in their communities. Nearly half indicated that amphetamines and methamphetamine also are commonly abused drugs. Seventy-three percent of respondents ranked marijuana as the *most abused substance* in their communities.

Note: A list of twelve controlled substances was presented in alphabetical order to avoid biasing responses to this question. Respondents were permitted to write-in additional substances under other.

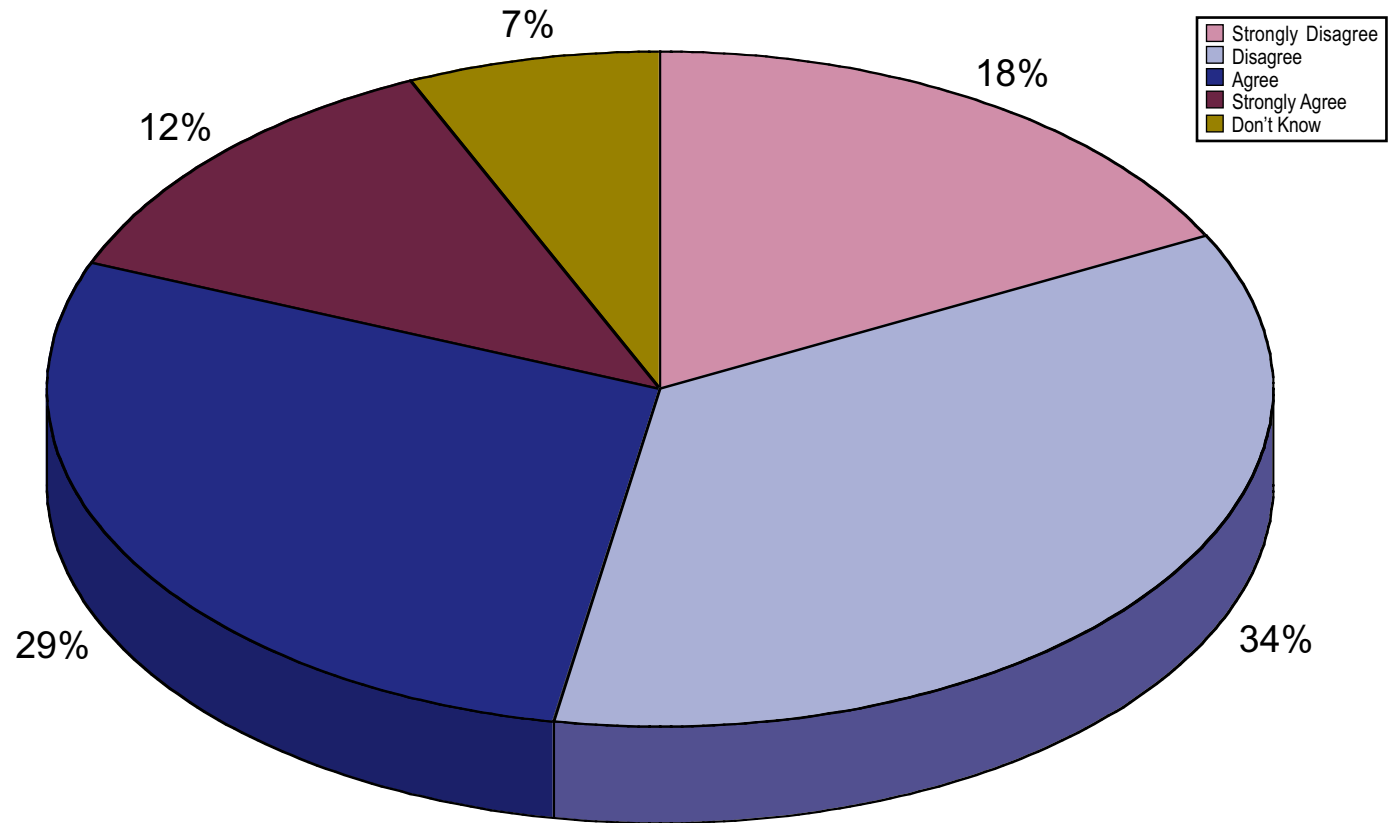
Presence of Organized Gangs in Communities

Survey Question

Question 19:

Indicate the extent of your agreement or disagreement with the following statement by placing a checkmark in one box to indicate strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree, or don't know.

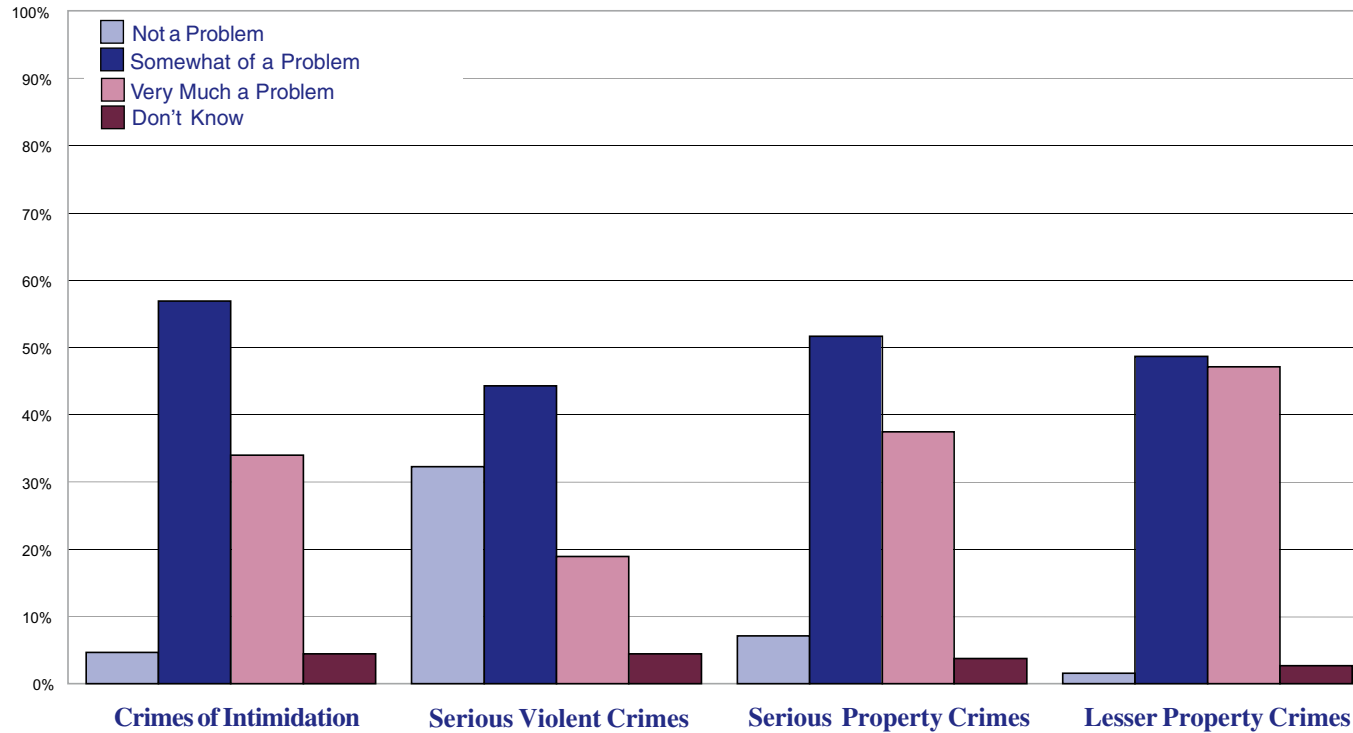
Organized gangs are present in my community. By organized gangs we mean groups that have a definite leadership hierarchy and whose membership is relatively consistent over time.



1,108 respondents answered this question.

Findings: Forty-one percent of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that organized gangs are present in their communities.

Crimes Committed by Organized Gangs



Survey Question

Question 20:

Now indicate the extent to which you think each of the following types of illegal activity committed by organized gangs are a problem in your community by placing a checkmark in one box to indicate not a problem, somewhat a problem, very much a problem, or don't know.

The number of respondents answering this question was 450 for crimes of intimidation, 449 for serious violent crimes, 451 for serious property crimes, and 450 for lesser property crimes. (Only the responses of people indicating agree or strongly agree to question 19 were considered.)

Findings: Nearly 9 out of every 10 respondents believed that crimes of intimidation, serious property crimes, and lesser property crimes committed by organized gangs are either somewhat or very much a problem in their communities. Two-thirds thought that serious violent crime is somewhat or very much a problem for their communities.

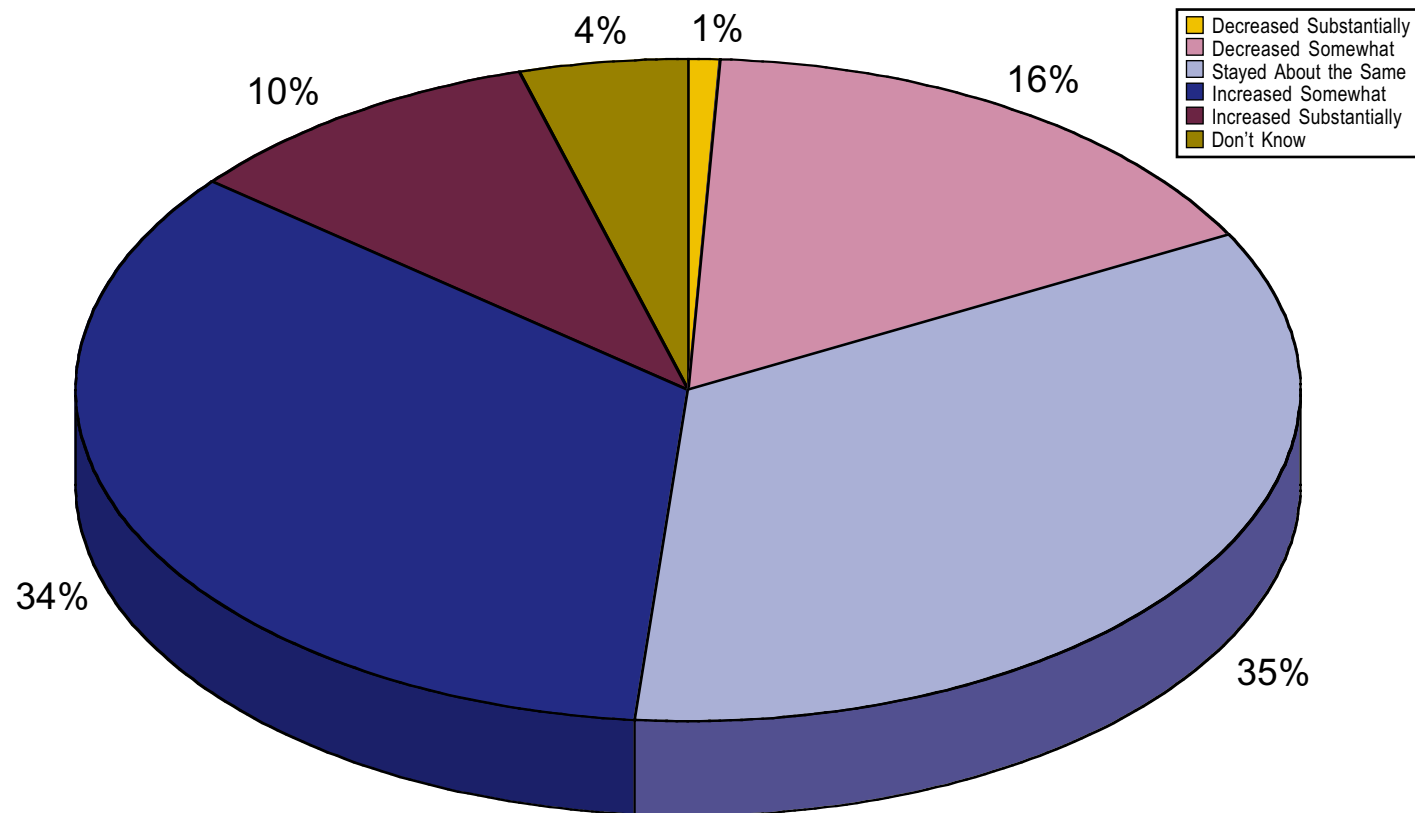
Note: Crimes of intimidation were defined as “e.g., threats, insults, harassment.” Serious violent crimes were defined as “e.g., murder, rape, robbery, assault.” Serious property crimes were defined as “e.g., burglary, auto theft, theft, arson.” Lesser property crimes were defined as “e.g., vandalism, minor thefts, graffiti.”

Changes in the Illegal Activity of Organized Gangs in the Last Three Years

Survey Question

Question 21:

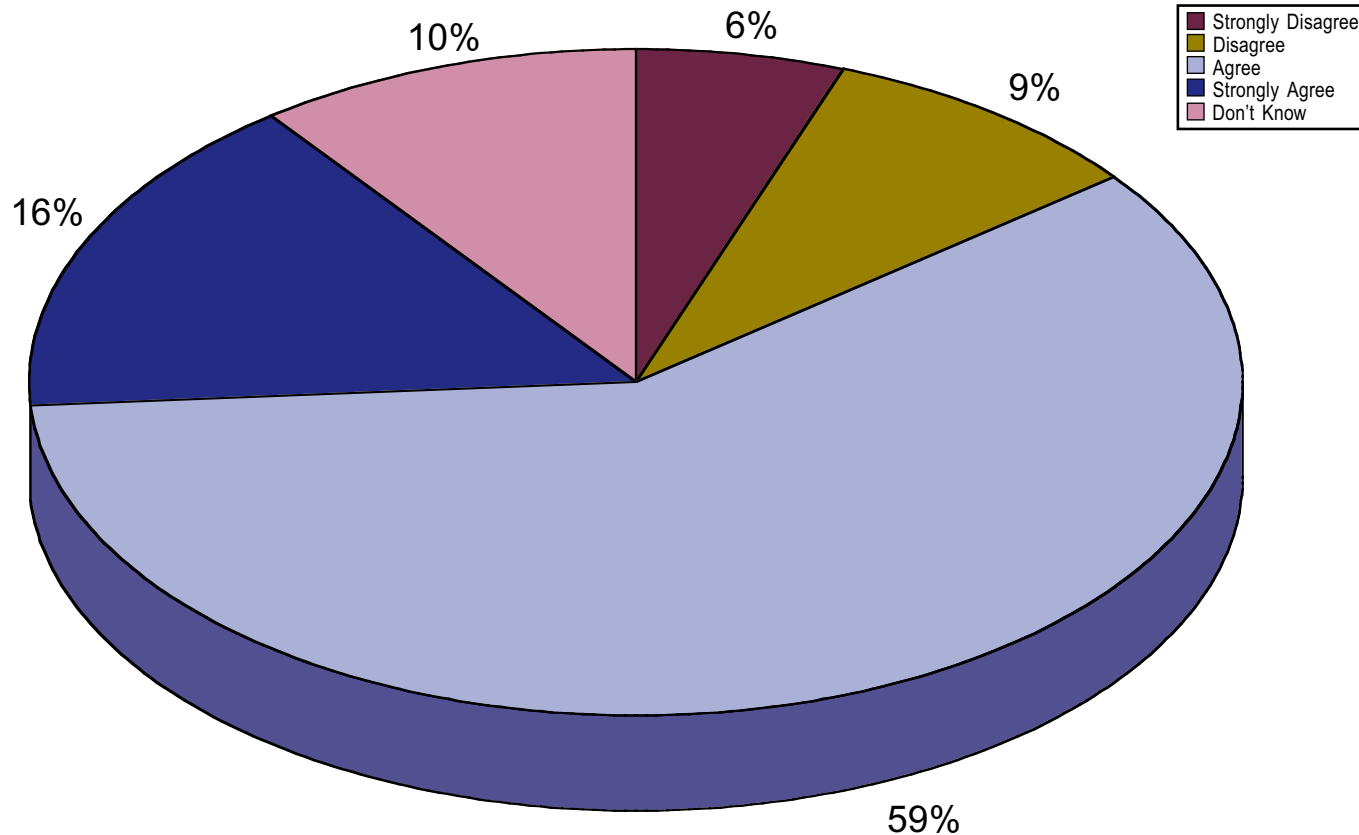
In your opinion, has the illegal activity of organized gangs decreased substantially, decreased somewhat, stayed about the same, increased somewhat, or increased substantially in your community in the last three years?



451 respondents answered this question. (Only the responses of people indicating agree or strongly agree to question 19 were considered.)

Findings: Forty-four percent of respondents reported that the illegal activity of organized gangs increased somewhat or substantially during the years 1996 to 1999.

Presence of Non-Organized Gangs in Communities



Survey Question

Question 22:

Indicate the extent of your agreement or disagreement with the following statement by placing a checkmark in one box to indicate strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree, or don't know.

Non-organized gangs are present in my community. By non-organized gangs we mean groups that do NOT necessarily have a clear leadership hierarchy and whose membership is relatively inconsistent over time.

1,114 respondents answered this question.

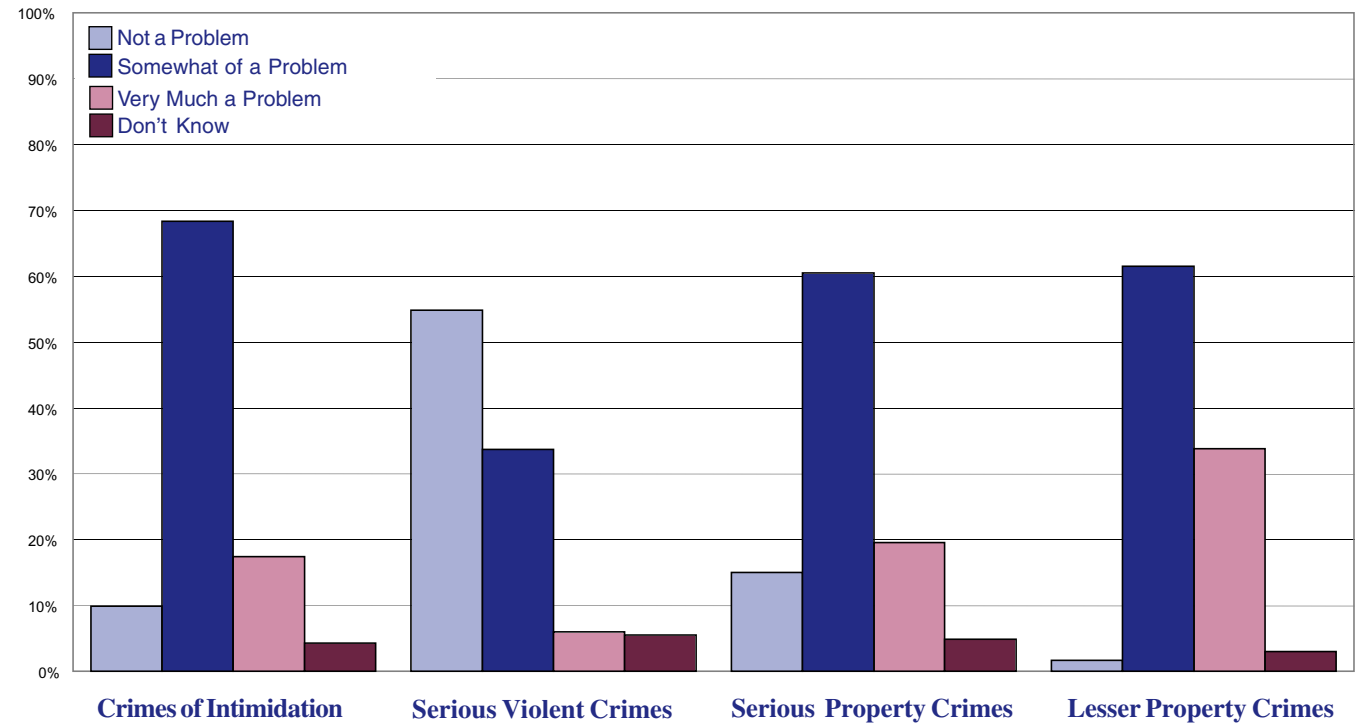
Findings: Seventy-five percent of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that non-organized gangs are present in their communities.

Crimes Committed by Non-Organized Gangs

Survey Question

Question 23:

Now indicate the extent to which you think each of the following types of illegal activity committed by non-organized gangs are a problem in your community by placing a checkmark in one box to indicate not a problem, somewhat a problem, very much a problem, or don't know.

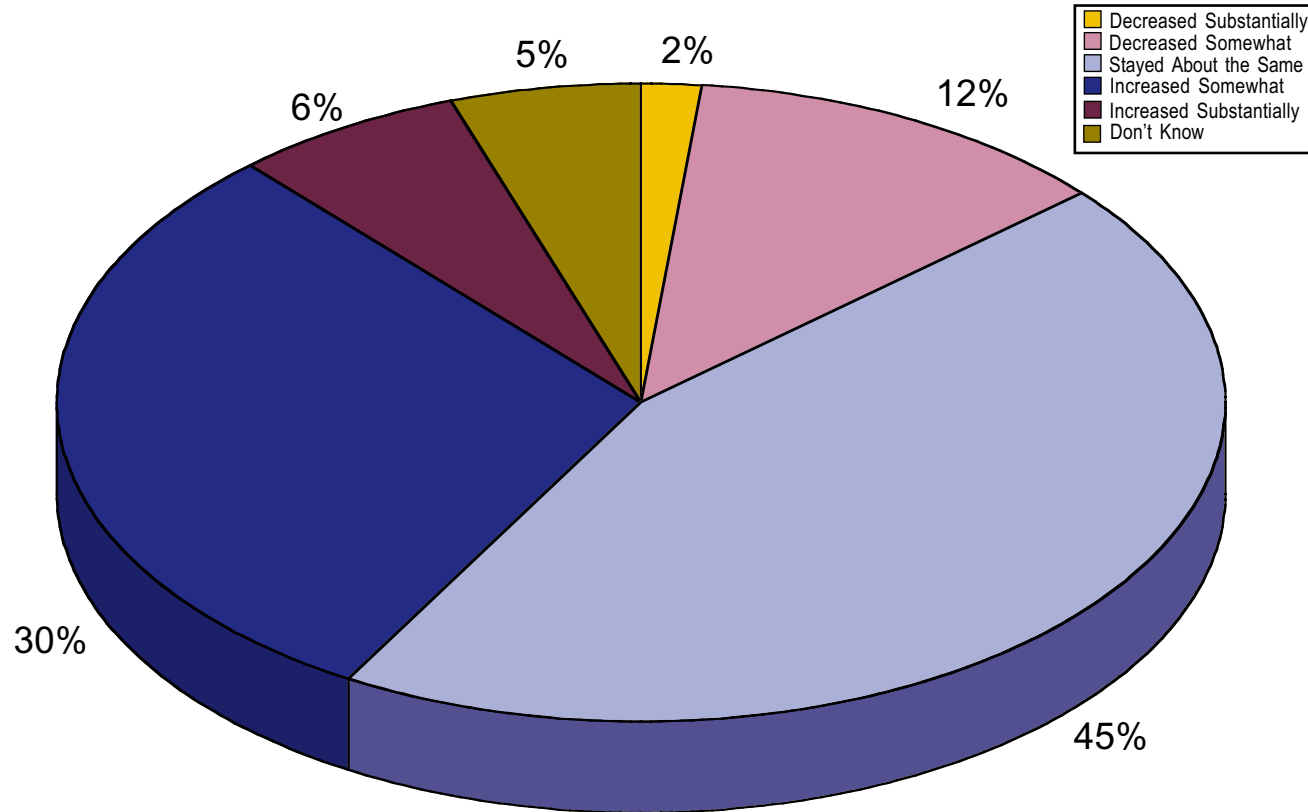


The number of respondents answering this question was 838 for crimes of intimidation, 837 for serious violent crimes, 838 for serious property crimes, and 837 for lesser property crimes. (Only the responses of people indicating agree or strongly agree to question 22 were considered.)

Findings: Eight out of 10 respondents indicated that crimes of intimidation, serious property crimes, and lesser property crimes committed by non-organized gangs are somewhat to very much a problem in their communities. Only 40% thought that serious violent crime is somewhat to very much a problem for their communities.

Note: Crimes of intimidation were defined as “e.g., threats, insults, harassment.” Serious violent crimes were defined as “e.g., murder, rape, robbery, assault.” Serious property crimes were defined as “e.g., burglary, auto theft, theft, arson.” Lesser property crimes were defined as “e.g., vandalism, minor thefts, graffiti.”

Changes in the Illegal Activity of Non-Organized Gangs in the Last Three Years



Survey Question

Question 24:

In your opinion, has the illegal activity of non-organized gangs decreased substantially, decreased somewhat, stayed about the same, increased somewhat, or increased substantially in your community in the last three years?

831 respondents answered this question. (Only the responses of people indicating agree or strongly agree to question 22 were considered.)

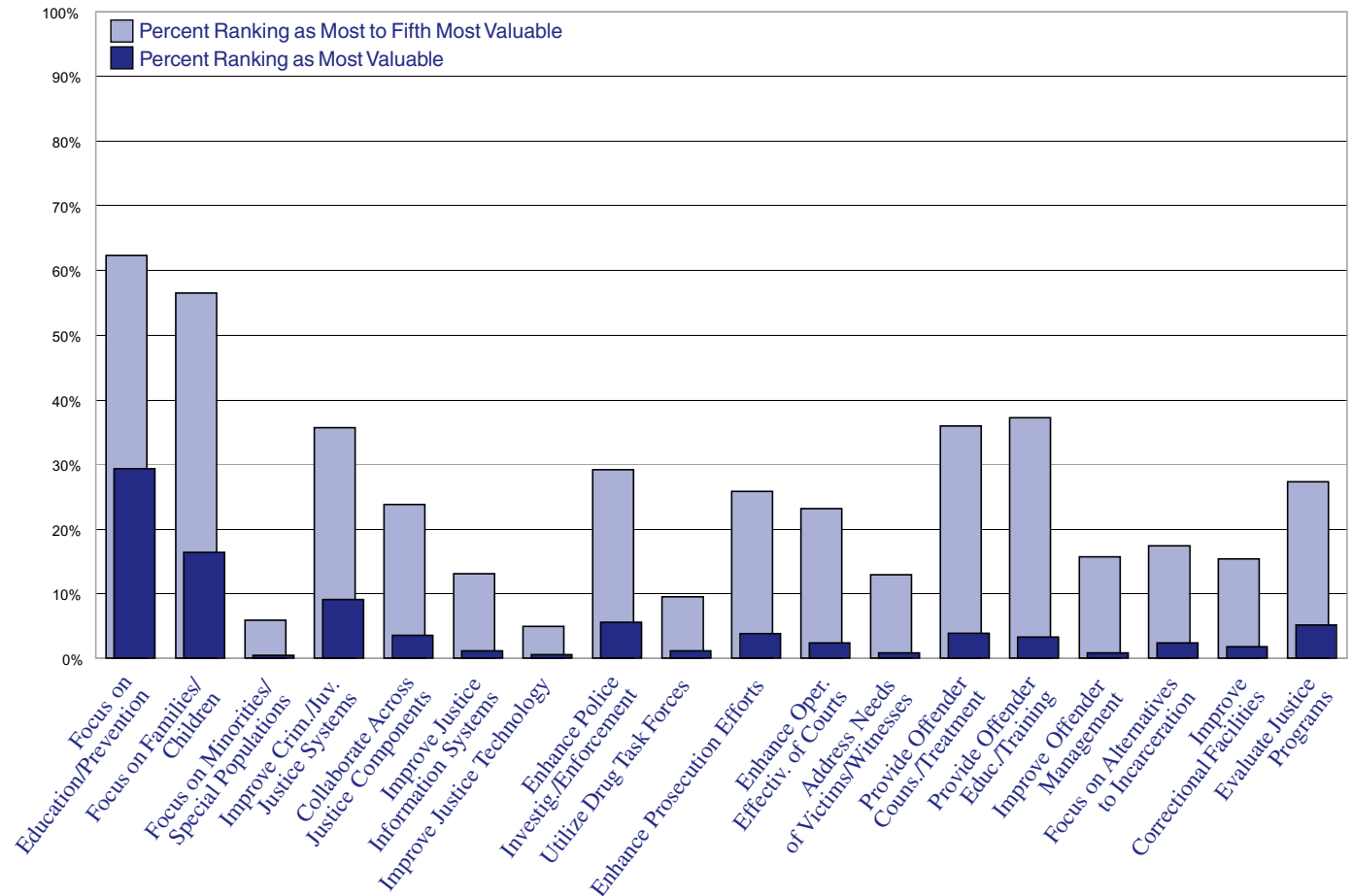
Findings: Thirty-six percent of respondents indicated that the illegal activity of non-organized gangs increased somewhat or substantially during the years 1996 to 1999.

Value of Various Approaches for Fighting Delinquency and Crime

Survey Question

Question 25:

Several general approaches to fighting delinquency/crime are listed below. Please rank the five approaches that you think would be the most valuable to your community's fight against delinquency/crime. Place 1 next to the most valuable, 2 next to the second most valuable, 3 next to the third most valuable, 4 next to the fourth most valuable, and 5 next to the fifth most valuable approach.

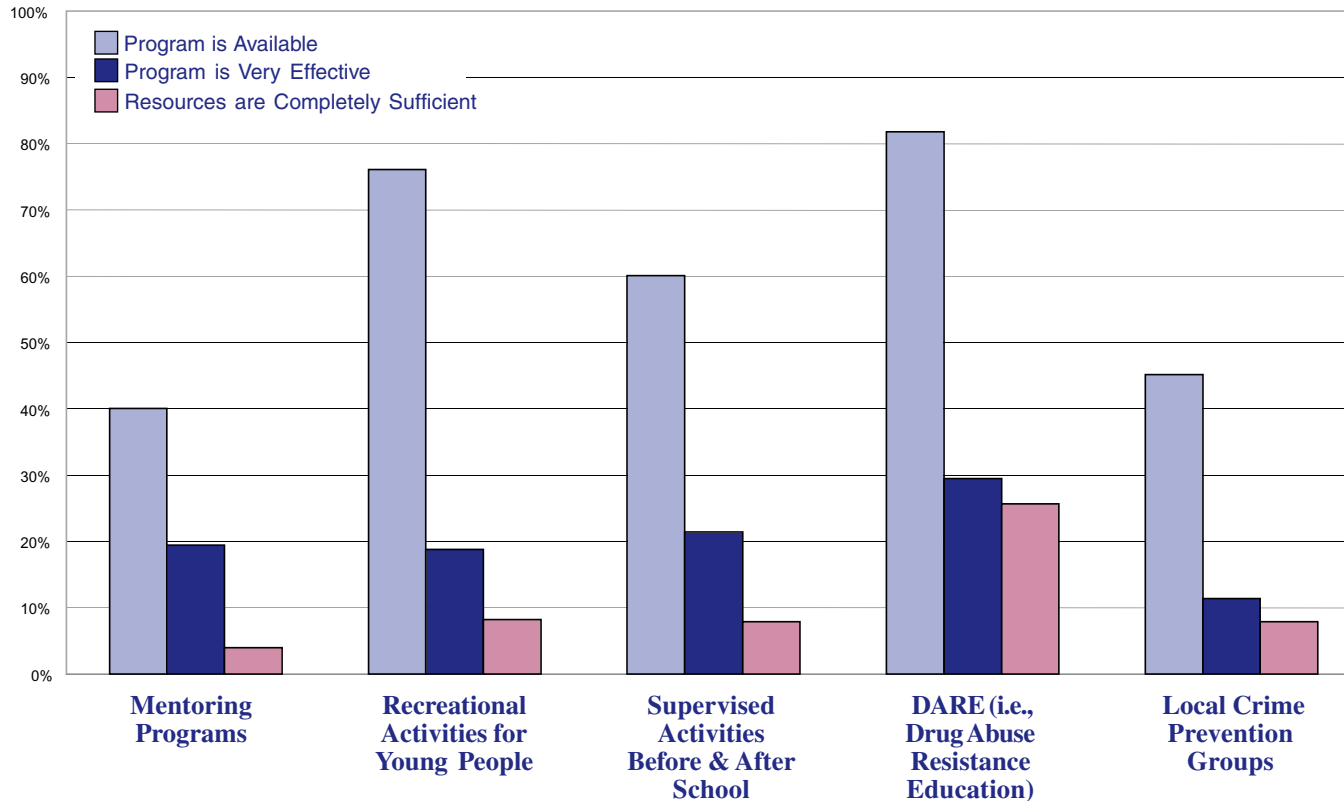


Percent ranking as the most valuable was calculated by dividing the number of respondents ranking an item as the most valuable approach by 1,135 (the number of respondents returning the survey). Percent ranking as the most to the fifth most valuable was calculated by summing the number of respondents ranking an item as the most, second most, third most, fourth most, and fifth most valuable approach and dividing that sum by 1,135.

Findings: More than half of all respondents rated focusing on education and prevention and focusing on justice issues affecting families and children among the top five approaches most valuable to their communities' fight against delinquency and crime. The largest proportion of respondents rating any single approach (29%) ranked education and prevention as the *most valuable approach*.

Note: Eighteen statements describing different approaches to fighting delinquency and crime were presented in alphabetical order to avoid biasing responses to this question (e.g., "Focusing on education and prevention").

Availability, Effectiveness, and Sufficiency of Resources for Justice Programs -- Chart 1



The number of respondents indicating whether a specific program was available varied, ranging from 1,097 for specialized prosecution programs to 1,114 for supervised activities before and after school. Data on program effectiveness and the sufficiency of resources for programs are presented only for those respondents who indicated that a particular program is available in their communities.

Findings: Examination of the three charts associated with this question demonstrates that, with the exception of a few programs, one-half or more of all respondents reported that each of the programs listed is available in their communities. Relatively few respondents rated any of the available programs as very effective, and few believed that program resources are completely sufficient.

Note: Response options for each part of question 26 were: (a) yes, no, and don't know; (b) not at all effective, somewhat effective, very effective, and don't know; (c) not at all sufficient, somewhat sufficient, completely sufficient, and don't know.

Survey Question

Question 26:

Several specific types of criminal/ juvenile justice programs are listed below. For each program, indicate (a) whether your community has such programs, (b) how effectively you think those programs address the issues they are intended to address, and (c) how sufficient you think the resources in your community (no matter the source) are for such programs.

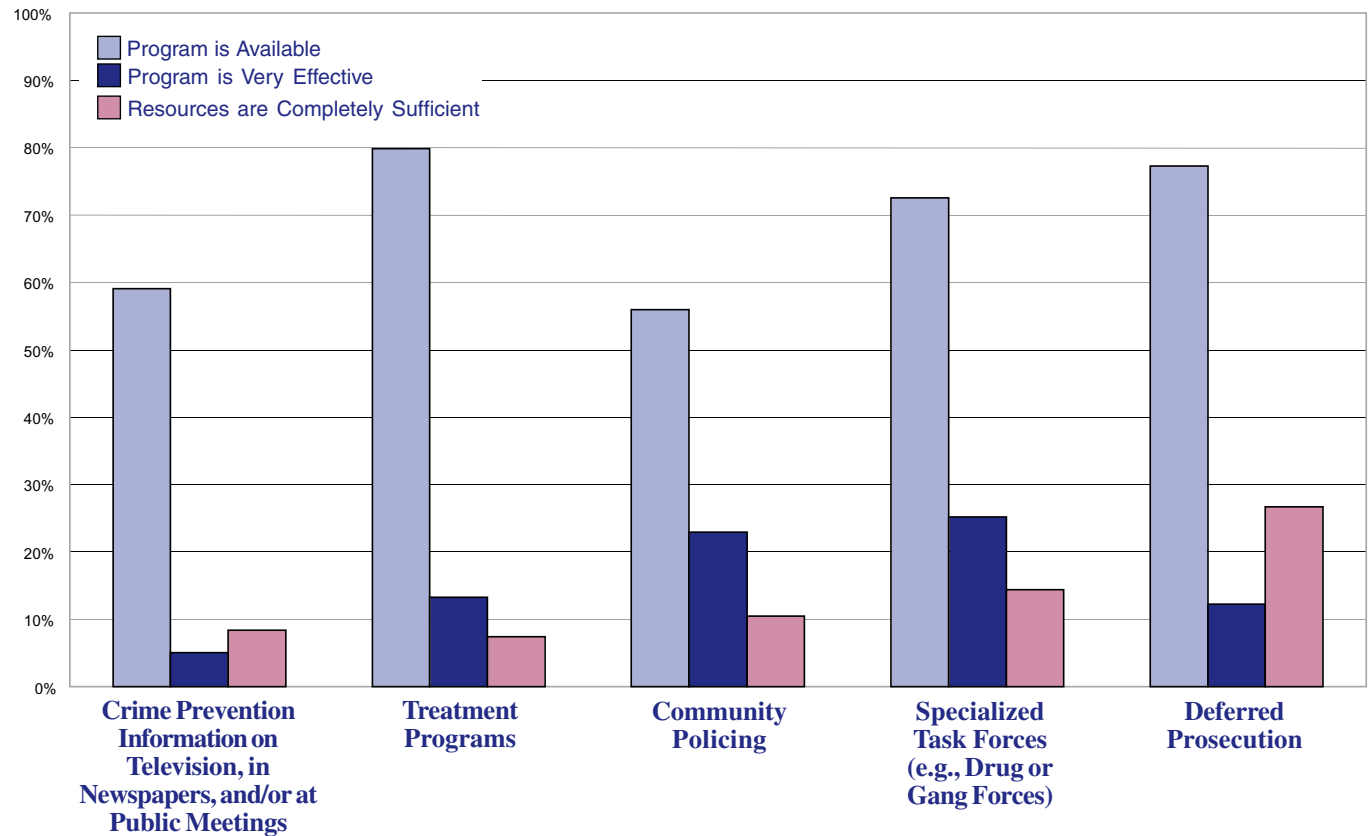
**Information on additional programs included in this Survey question is presented on pages 18 and 19.*

Availability, Effectiveness, and Sufficiency of Resources for Justice Programs -- Chart 2

Survey Question

Question 26:

Several specific types of criminal/ juvenile justice programs are listed below. For each program, indicate (a) whether your community has such programs, (b) how effectively you think those programs address the issues they are intended to address, and (c) how sufficient you think the resources in your community (no matter the source) are for such programs.



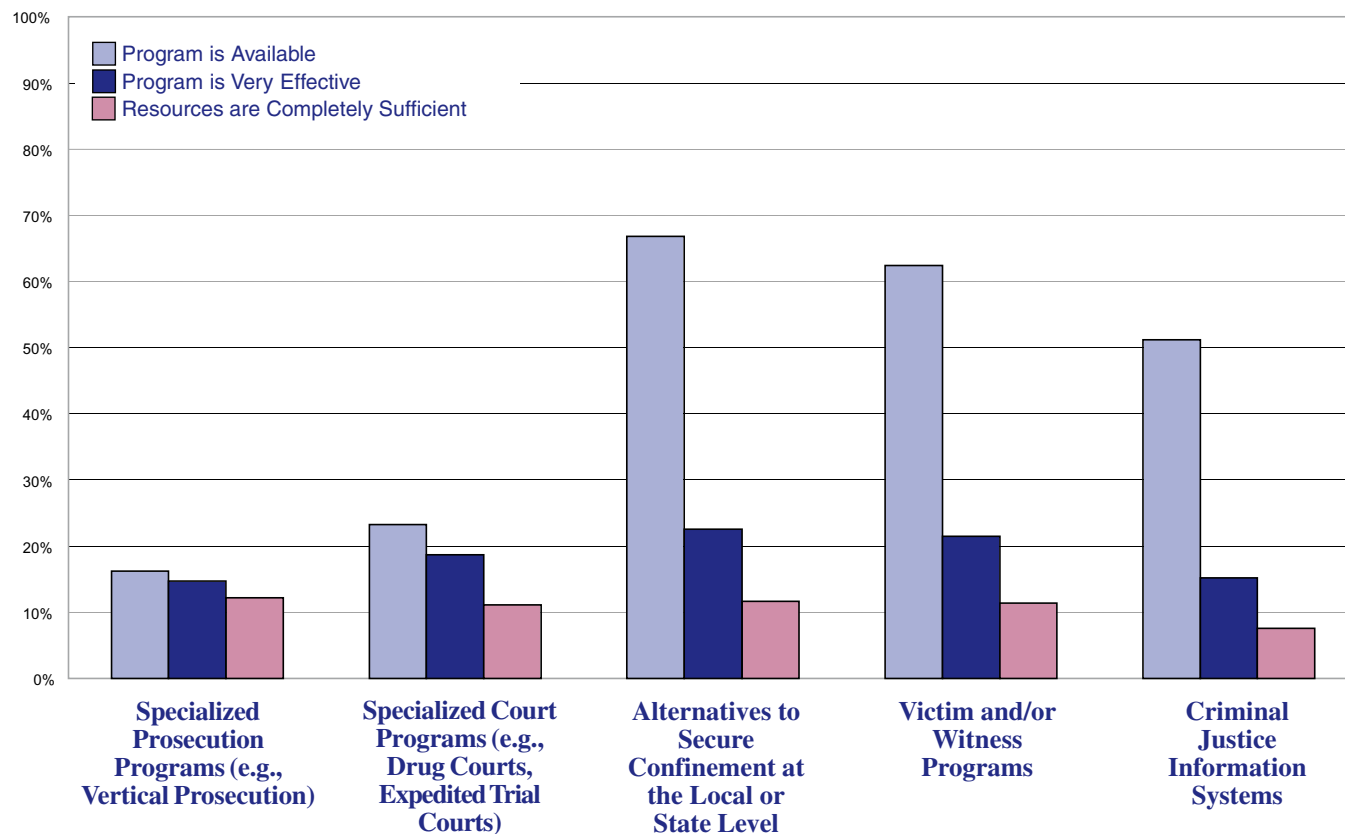
The number of respondents indicating whether a specific program was available varied, ranging from 1,097 for specialized prosecution programs to 1,114 for supervised activities before and after school. Data on program effectiveness and the sufficiency of resources for programs are presented only for those respondents who indicated that a particular program is available in their communities.

Findings: Examination of the three charts associated with this question demonstrates that, with the exception of a few programs, one-half or more of all respondents reported that each of the programs listed is available in their communities. Relatively few respondents rated any of the available programs as very effective, and few believed that program resources are completely sufficient.

Note: Response options for each part of question 26 were: (a) yes, no, and don't know; (b) not at all effective, somewhat effective, very effective, and don't know; (c) not at all sufficient, somewhat sufficient, completely sufficient, and don't know.

**Information on additional programs included in this Survey question is presented on pages 17 and 19.*

Availability, Effectiveness, and Sufficiency of Resources for Justice Programs -- Chart 3



The number of respondents indicating whether a specific program was available varied, ranging from 1,097 for specialized prosecution programs to 1,114 for supervised activities before and after school. Data on program effectiveness and the sufficiency of resources for programs are presented only for those respondents who indicated that a particular program is available in their communities.

Findings: Examination of the three charts associated with this question demonstrates that, with the exception of a few programs, one-half or more of all respondents reported that each of the programs listed is available in their communities. Relatively few respondents rated any of the available programs as very effective, and few believed that program resources are completely sufficient.

Note: Response options for each part of question 26 were: (a) yes, no, and don't know; (b) not at all effective, somewhat effective, very effective, and don't know; (c) not at all sufficient, somewhat sufficient, completely sufficient, and don't know.

Survey Question

Question 26:

Several specific types of criminal/ juvenile justice programs are listed below. For each program, indicate (a) whether your community has such programs, (b) how effectively you think those programs address the issues they are intended to address, and (c) how sufficient you think the resources in your community (no matter the source) are for such programs.

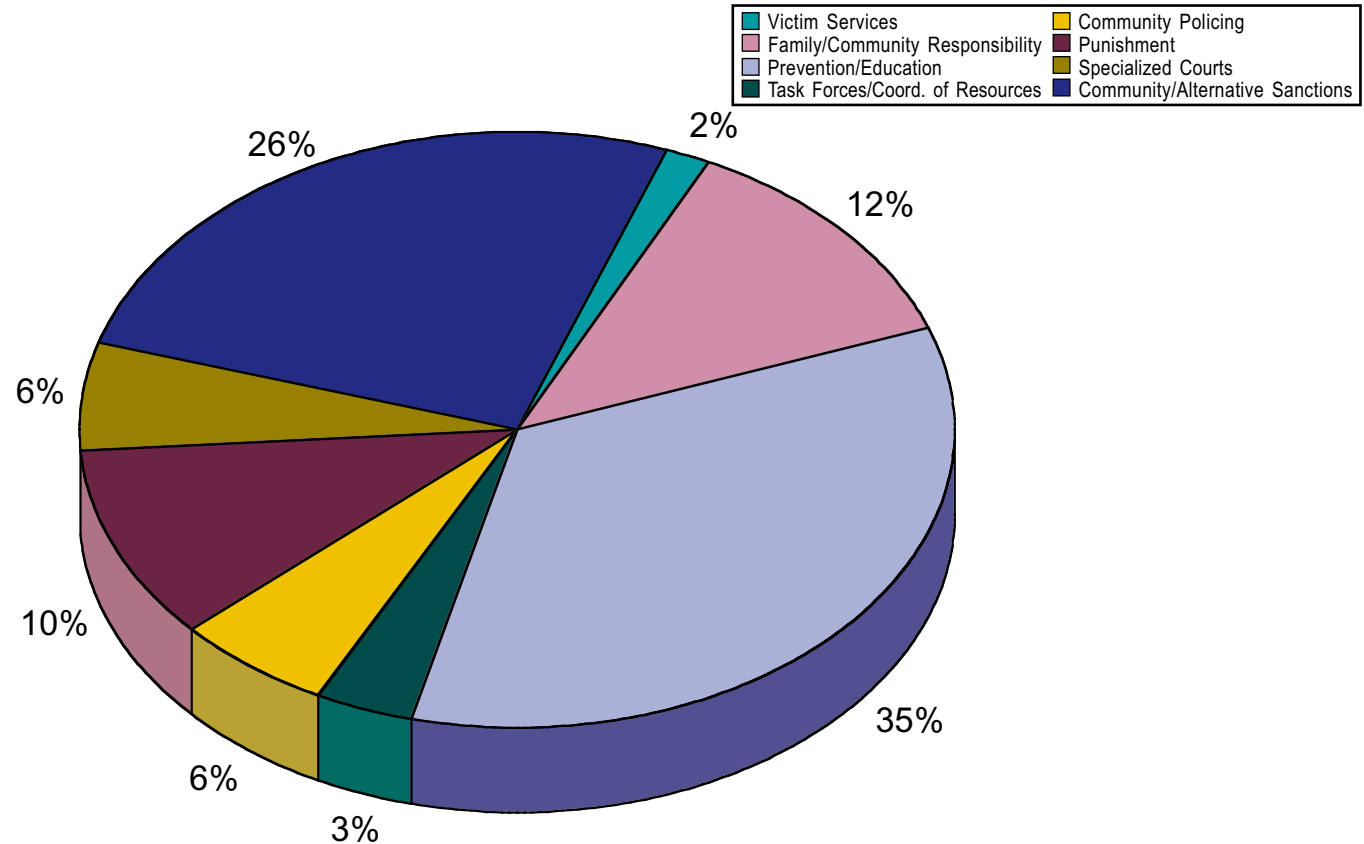
**Information on additional programs included in this Survey question is presented on pages 17 and 18.*

Most Effective Programs for Dealing with Crime and Delinquency

Survey Question

Question 27:

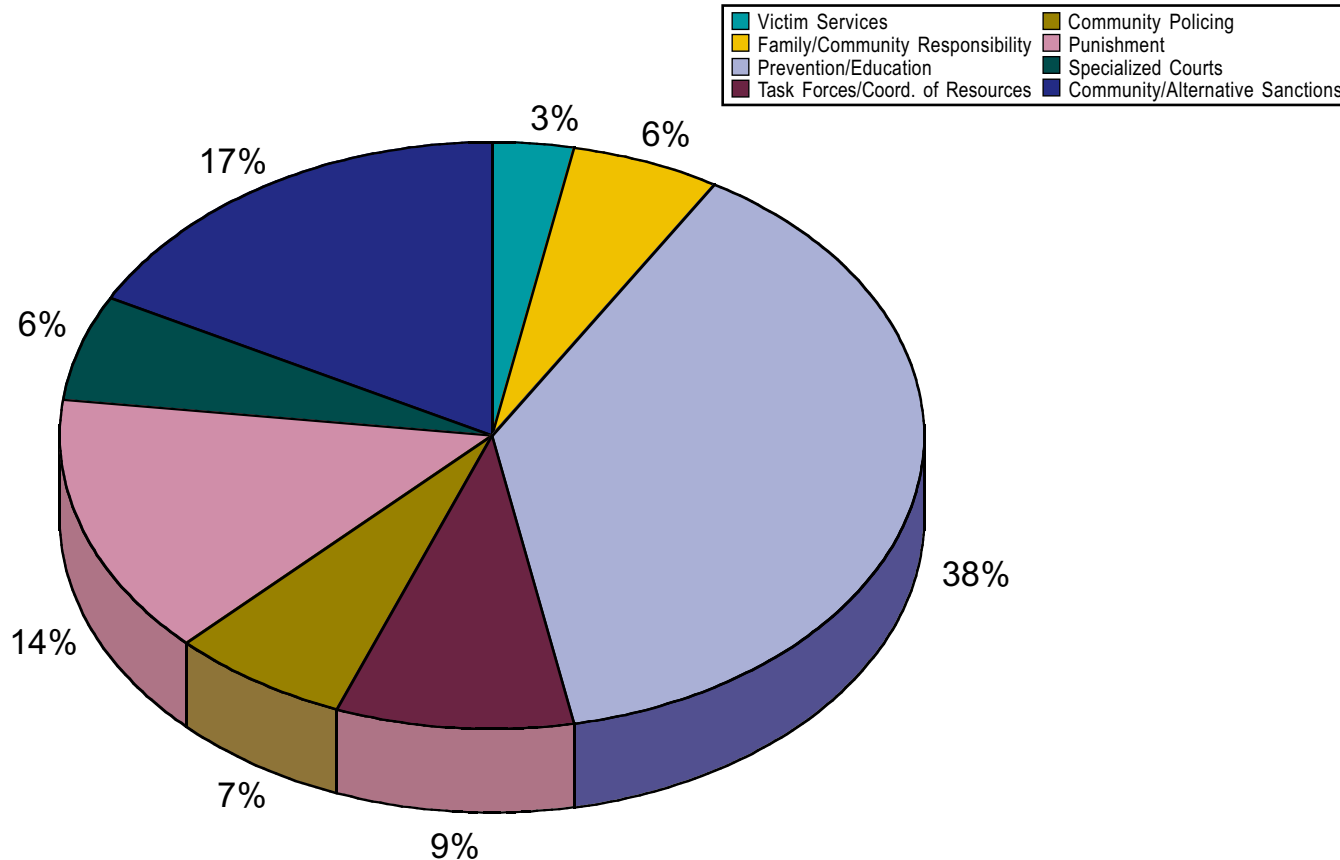
Please name and briefly describe the most effective program you are aware of for dealing with delinquency/crime. The program you discuss does NOT have to be a “criminal/juvenile justice” program per se, and it does NOT have to be in your community right now. It can address any aspect of delinquency/crime, from its causes to prevention through sanctions, as long as you believe it is a highly effective program.



516 respondents answered this question.

Findings: Content analysis indicated that the programs listed tend to fall into one of eight categories as shown. The largest proportions of respondents identified crime prevention or education programs (35%) and community/alternative sanctions (26%) as the most effective programs for dealing with crime and delinquency. Ten to twelve percent of respondents thought that punishment-based programs or programs focusing on family and community responsibility are highly effective.

Programs Respondents Would Implement To Meet the Needs of Their Communities



Survey Question

Question 28:

Now, if you could implement any three (3) of the many existing criminal/juvenile justice programs to meet the current needs of your community, what would they be?

465 respondents listed at least one program in response to this question. Only some respondents listed three programs as requested but when more than one program was listed, they were often the same types of programs (e.g., prevention/education programs). Thus, to simplify interpretation, only the first program listed was included in this analysis.

Findings: Content analysis again indicated that the programs listed tend to fall into the same eight categories as noted for the previous question. Thirty-eight percent of respondents would implement prevention or education programs to meet the current needs of their communities, 17% would implement community/alternative sanction programs, and 14% would implement punishment-based programs, such as detention centers, boot camps, and stiffer penalties for crime.

Completeness, Accuracy, and Timeliness of Criminal History Records from Law Enforcement Agencies

Survey Question

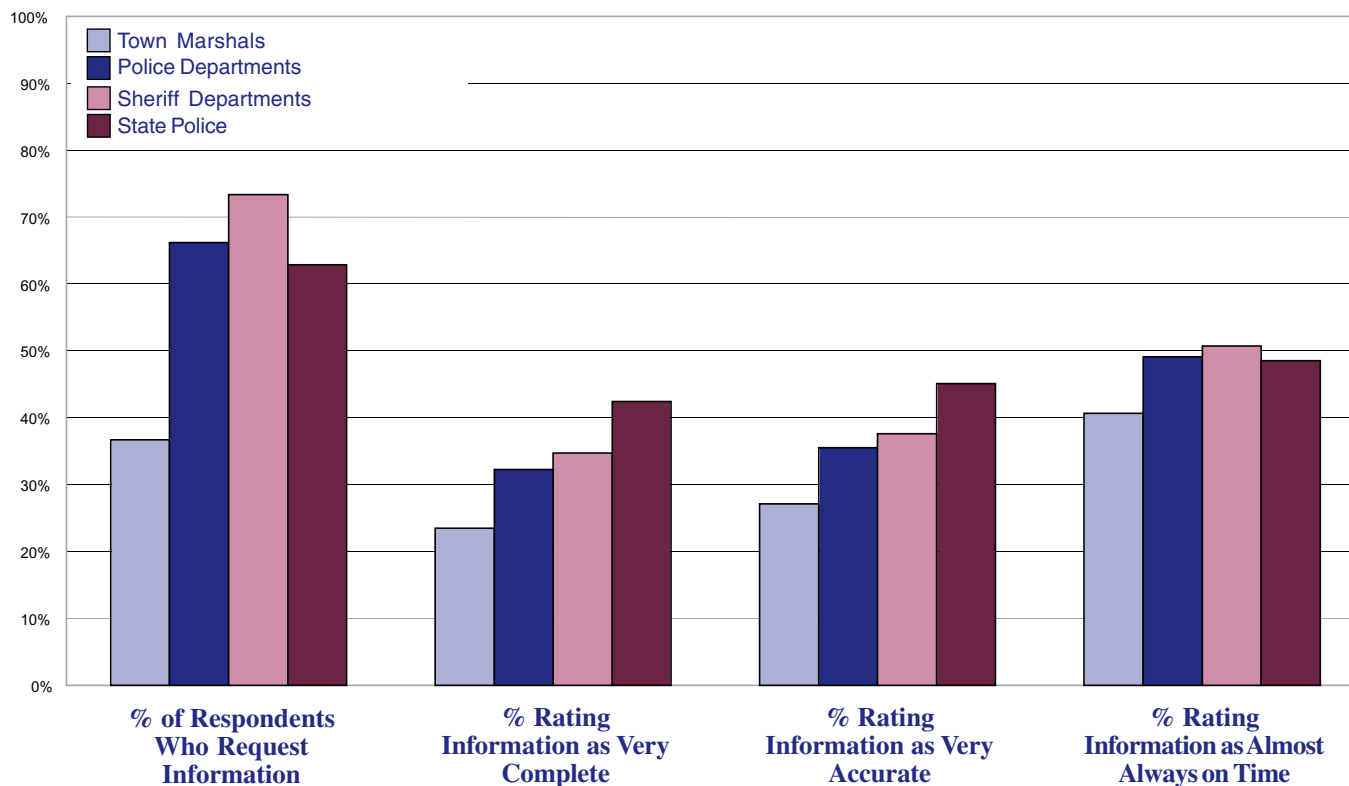
Question 29:

Many criminal/juvenile justice agencies routinely request criminal history information from other criminal/juvenile justice agencies. For each agency listed below, place checkmarks on each line to indicate the (a) completeness, (b) accuracy, and (c) timeliness of the information you receive from other agencies. If you do not routinely request criminal history information from that agency, place a checkmark in the "Do Not Request Information" box directly below the agency.

Completeness is defined as the extent to which relevant data elements are provided.

Accuracy refers to the accuracy of information that is provided on the record.

Timeliness is defined as the extent to which the record is received in time to be of use to you.

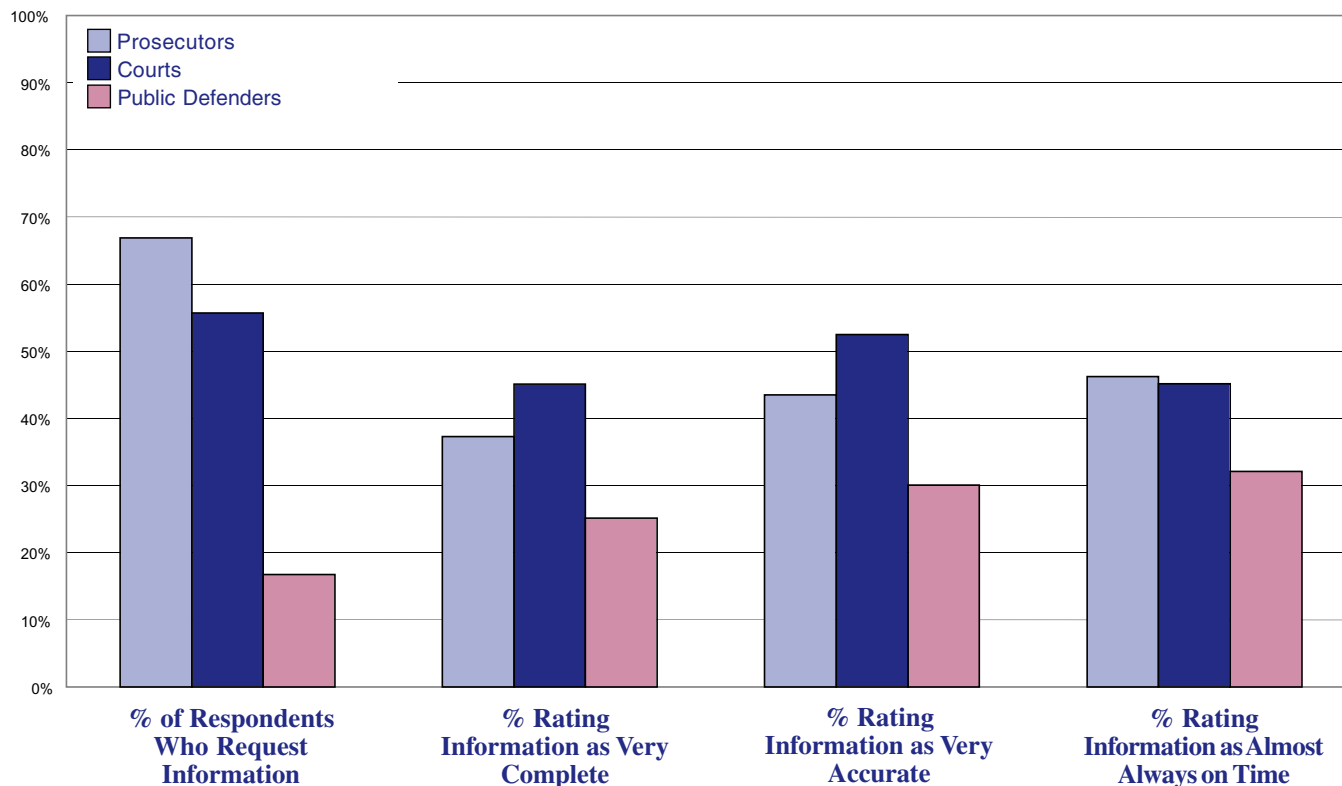


1,135 respondents indicated whether they routinely request criminal history information from a particular type of law enforcement agency. Data on completeness, accuracy, and timeliness are presented for respondents who said that they routinely request information from an agency.

Findings: More than 60% of respondents indicated that they routinely request information from police departments, sheriff departments, and the State Police. Town marshals receive considerably fewer requests. Forty percent of respondents rated information from the State Police as very complete and very accurate. Many respondents rated information from all of these law enforcement agencies as almost always on time.

Note: Completeness was rated on a four-point scale ranging from very incomplete to very complete. Accuracy was rated on a four-point scale ranging from very inaccurate to very accurate. The four-point scale for timeliness ranged from almost always too late to almost always on time.

Completeness, Accuracy, and Timeliness of Criminal History Records from the Judicial System



1,135 respondents indicated whether they routinely request criminal history information from a particular type of agency in the judicial system. Data on completeness, accuracy, and timeliness are presented for respondents who said that they routinely request information from an agency.

Findings: One-half or more of all respondents regularly request information from prosecutors and the courts, while very few request information from public defenders. Most respondents gave courts the highest ratings for completeness and accuracy, and both courts and prosecutors received high ratings for timeliness.

Note: Completeness was rated on a four-point scale ranging from very incomplete to very complete. Accuracy was rated on a four-point scale ranging from very inaccurate to very accurate. The four-point scale for timeliness ranged from almost always too late to almost always on time.

Survey Question

Question 29:

Many criminal/juvenile justice agencies routinely request criminal history information from other criminal/juvenile justice agencies. For each agency listed below, place checkmarks on each line to indicate the (a) completeness, (b) accuracy, and (c) timeliness of the information you receive from other agencies. If you do not routinely request criminal history information from that agency, place a checkmark in the “Do Not Request Information” box directly below the agency.

Completeness is defined as the extent to which relevant data elements are provided.

Accuracy refers to the accuracy of information that is provided on the record.

Timeliness is defined as the extent to which the record is received in time to be of use to you.

Completeness, Accuracy, and Timeliness of Criminal History Records from Community-Based Sanction Agencies

Survey Question

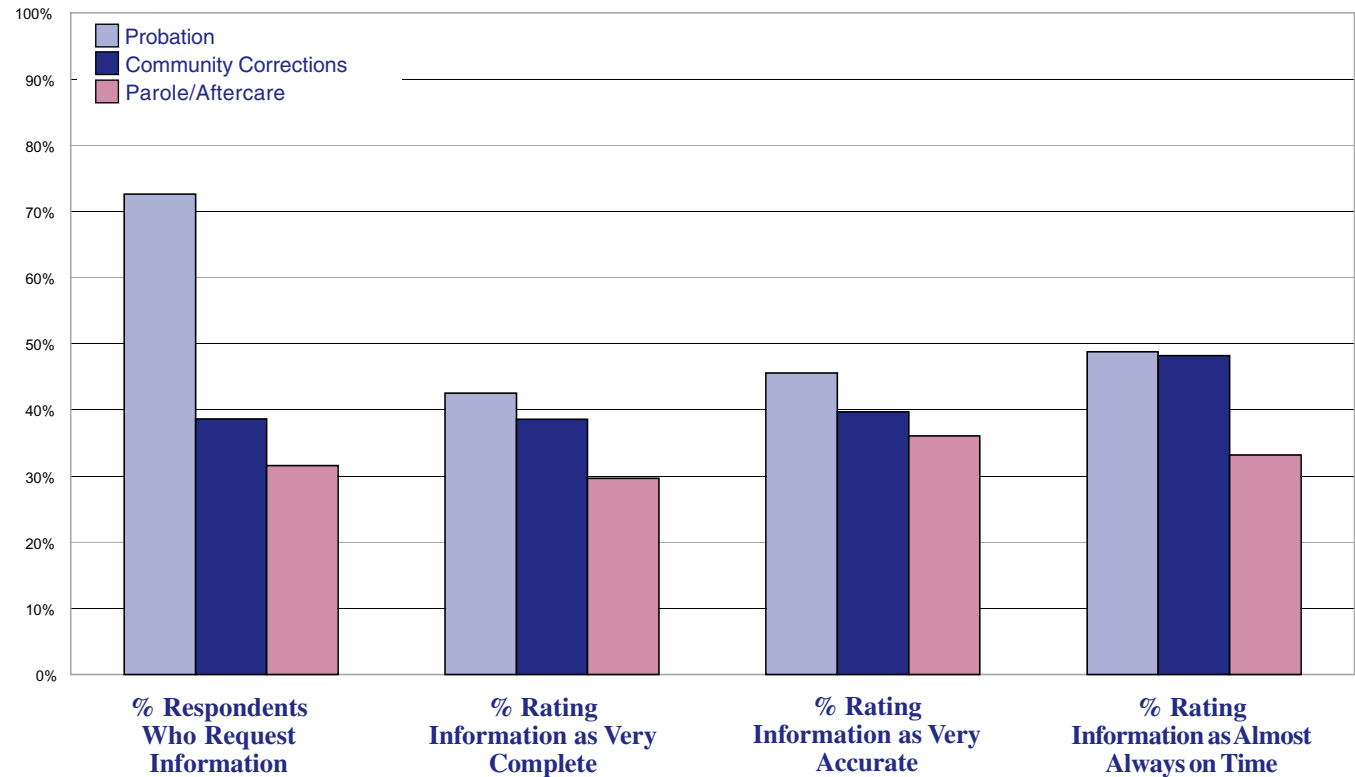
Question 29:

Many criminal/juvenile justice agencies routinely request criminal history information from other criminal/juvenile justice agencies. For each agency listed below, place checkmarks on each line to indicate the (a) completeness (b) accuracy, and (c) timeliness of the information you receive from other agencies. If you do not routinely request criminal history information from that agency, place a checkmark in the “Do Not Request Information” box directly below the agency.

Completeness is defined as the extent to which relevant data elements are provided.

Accuracy refers to the accuracy of information that is provided on the record.

Timeliness is defined as the extent to which the record is received in time to be of use to you.

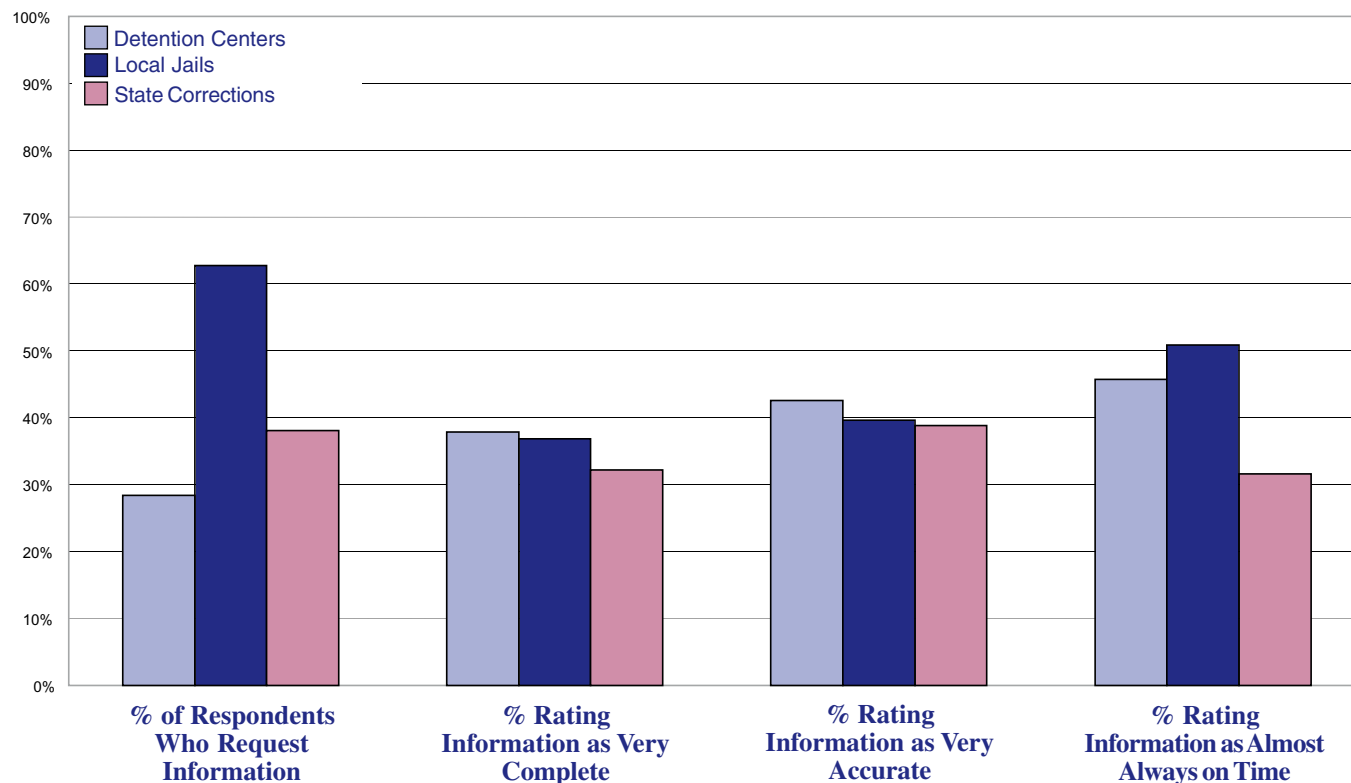


1,135 respondents indicated whether they routinely request criminal history information from a particular type of community-based sanction agency. Data on completeness, accuracy, and timeliness are presented for respondents who said that they routinely request information from an agency.

Findings: Probation departments receive considerably more requests for information than community correction or parole/aftercare agencies. Probation departments received slightly higher ratings for completeness and accuracy, and both probation departments and community correction agencies received high marks for timeliness.

Note: Completeness was rated on a four-point scale ranging from very incomplete to very complete. Accuracy was rated on a four-point scale ranging from very inaccurate to very accurate. The four-point scale for timeliness ranged from almost always too late to almost always on time.

Completeness, Accuracy, and Timeliness of Criminal History Records from Secure Correctional Facilities



1,135 respondents indicated whether they routinely request criminal history information from a particular type of secure correctional facility. Data on completeness, accuracy, and timeliness are presented for respondents who said that they routinely request information from an agency.

Findings: Local jails receive many more requests for information than detention centers or state correction facilities. Roughly equal proportions of respondents rated information from all three types of agencies as very complete and very accurate. Detention centers and local jails received high marks for timeliness.

Note: Completeness was rated on a four-point scale ranging from very incomplete to very complete. Accuracy was rated on a four-point scale ranging from very inaccurate to very accurate. The four-point scale for timeliness ranged from almost always too late to almost always on time.

Survey Question

Question 29:

Many criminal/juvenile justice agencies routinely request criminal history information from other criminal/juvenile justice agencies. For each agency listed below, place checkmarks on each line to indicate the (a) completeness, (b) accuracy, and (c) timeliness of the information you receive from other agencies. If you do not routinely request criminal history information from that agency, place a checkmark in the “Do Not Request Information” box directly below the agency.

Completeness is defined as the extent to which relevant data elements are provided.

Accuracy refers to the accuracy of information that is provided on the record.

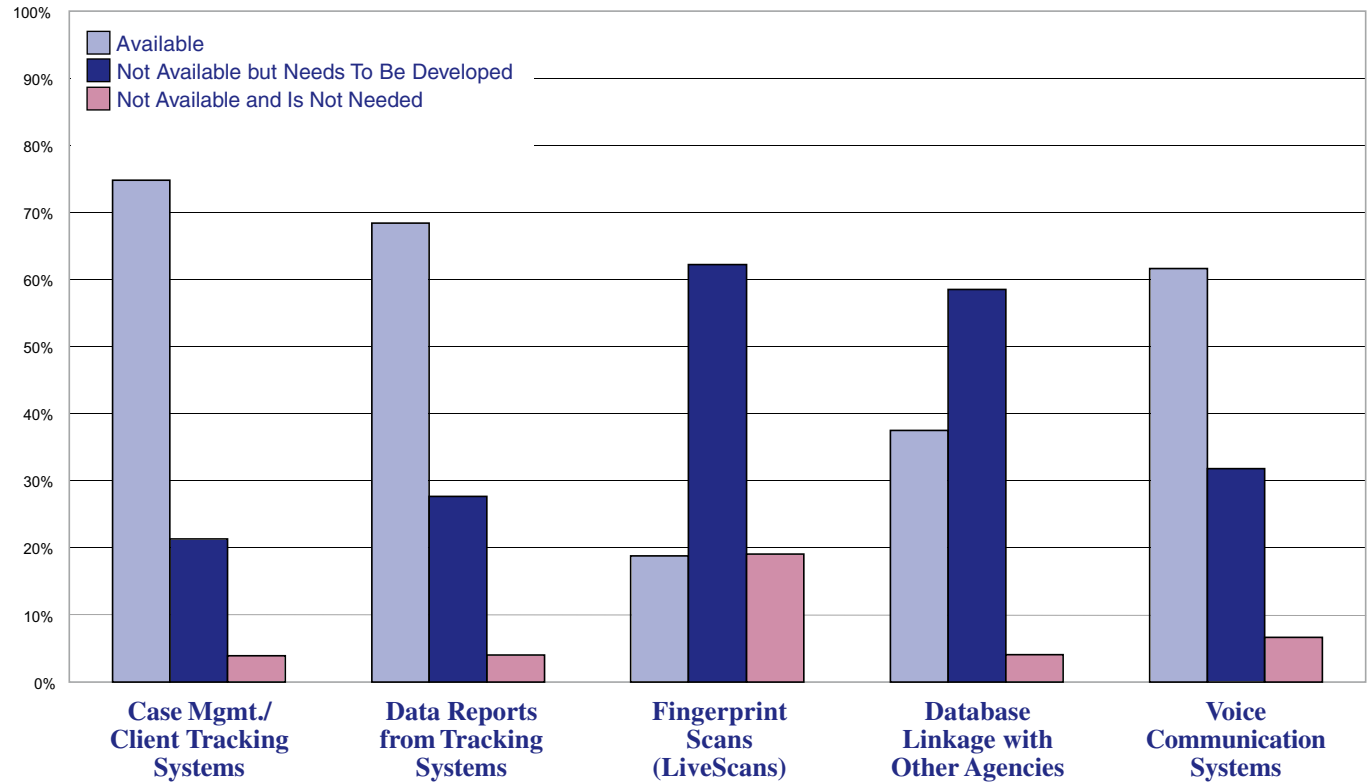
Timeliness is defined as the extent to which the record is received in time to be of use to you.

Availability of Justice Information Systems

Survey Question

Question 30:

For each of the types of information systems listed below, please indicate how sufficient it is for your day-to-day business needs by circling one number on each line.

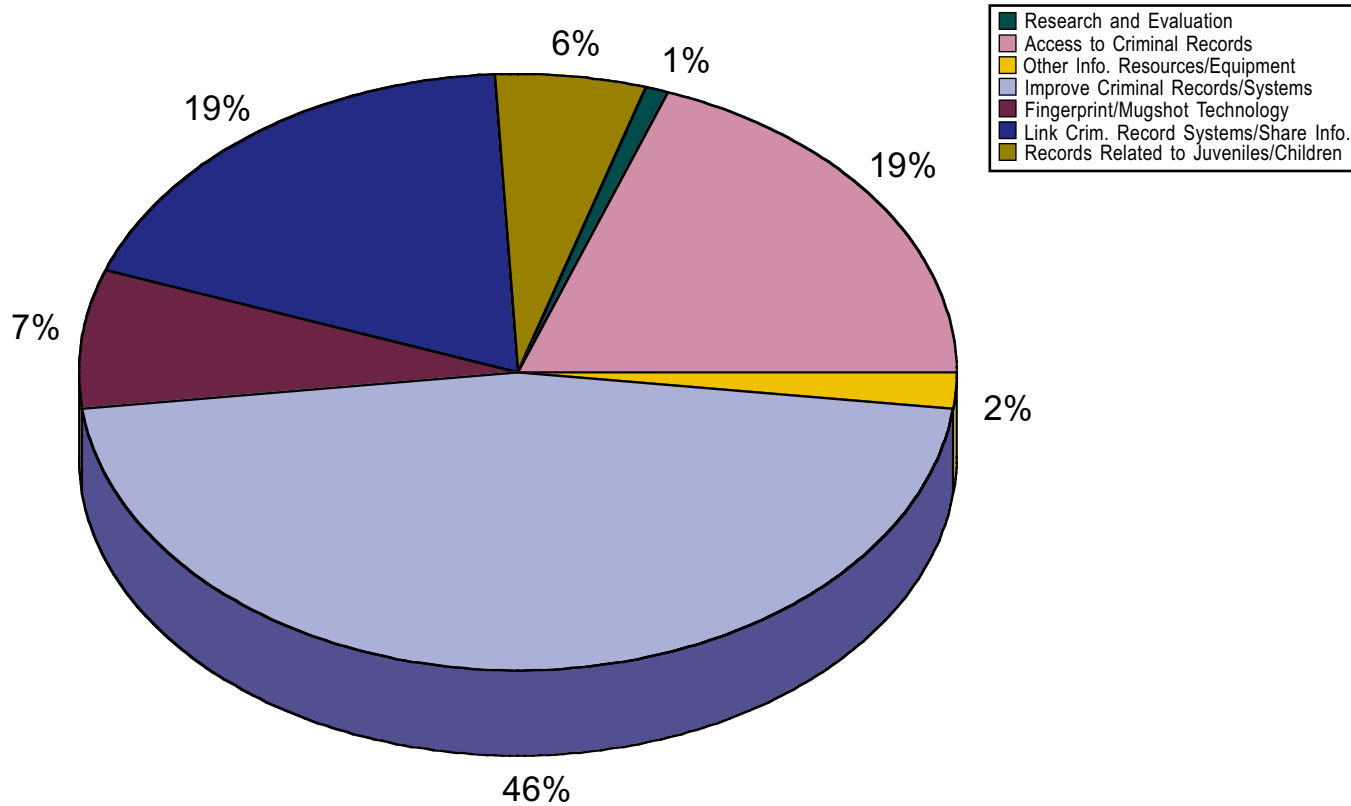


The number of respondents answering this question varied for each item, ranging from 730 for fingerprint scans to 925 for case management/client tracking systems.

Findings: More than 60% of respondents indicated that case management, data reports, and voice communication systems are available to meet their day-to-day business needs. However, less than 20% reported that LiveScan technology is available, and less than 40% indicated that they have the ability to electronically link data with other justice agencies. The majority of respondents believed that both of these information systems need to be developed. Very few thought that they are not needed.

Note: Six response options were provided: (a) information system is available and needs little or no improvement, (b) information system is available and needs moderate improvement, (c) information system is available and needs major improvement, (d) information system is not available but needs to be developed, (e) information system is not available and is not needed, and (f) don't know. Here, options a, b, and c are collapsed and compared to d and e. Don't know responses were excluded.

Criminal History Information Needs



Survey Question

Question 31:

Please describe any criminal history record information needs you/your agency might have in the future that are not currently being met. Briefly describe how the suggested information would be helpful to you/your agency.

247 respondents answered this question.

Findings: Content analysis indicated that future information needs tend to fall into one of seven categories as shown. The majority of respondents (84%) identified improving criminal records or record keeping systems, accessing criminal records, or linking criminal record systems as important needs they will have in the future.



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